

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Saturday, November 26, 2011

Paint it Black

Sharp elbows: Shoppers scuffle in US

Shoppers carry their purchases as they walk near Union Square in San Francisco, Friday, Nov. 25, 2011. Early signs point to bigger crowds at the nation's malls and stores as retailers like Macy's and Target opened their doors at midnight. Toys R Us and a few stores other stores that opened on Thanksgiving Day also were filled with shoppers.

(AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)



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Sharp elbows: Shoppers scuffle in US

NEW YORK (AP) — A shopper in Los Angeles pepper-sprayed her competition for an Xbox and scuffles broke out elsewhere around the U.S. as bargain-hunters crowded malls and megastores in an earlier-than-usual start to the madness known as Black Friday, the day that marks the start of holiday shopping. For the first time, chains such as Target, Best Buy and Kohl's opened their doors at midnight on the most anticipated shopping

day of the year. Toys R Us opened for the second straight year on Thanksgiving itself, the traditional harvest holiday. And some shoppers arrived with sharp elbows.

On Thanksgiving night, a Walmart in Los Angeles brought out a crate of discounted Xboxes, and as a crowd waited for the video game players to be unwrapped, a woman fired pepper spray at the other shoppers "in order to get an advantage," police



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Target customer Nancy, last name not given, waits with televisions purchased at a Target Store in Colma, Calif., Friday, Nov. 25, 2011. The American holiday shopping season began in earnest Friday as stores opened their doors at midnight, a few hours earlier than they normally do on the most anticipated shopping day of the year.

(AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)

said.

Ten people suffered cuts and bruises in the chaos, and 10 others had minor injuries from the spray, authorities said. The woman got away in the confusion, and it was not immediately clear whether she got an Xbox. Protests were held Friday in places like Chicago and Washington to get people to reconsider shopping at national chains on what is known as Black Friday, so called because of the accounting practice of recording losses in red and profits in black. Protesters say the shops' earlier opening hours have ruined the Thanksgiving holiday, which is meant to bring families together.

On Friday morning, police said, two women were injured and a man was

charged after a fight broke out at an upstate New York Walmart. And a man was arrested in a scuffle at a jewelry counter at a Walmart in Kissimmee, Florida. Wal-Mart, the nation's biggest retailer, has taken steps in recent years to control its Black Friday crowds following the 2008 death of one of its workers in a stampede of shoppers. This year, it staggered its door-buster deals instead of offering them all at once.

Wal-Mart spokesman Greg Rossiter said Black Friday was safe at most of its nearly 4,000 U.S., but there were "a few unfortunate incidents." The incidents were attributed to two converging Black Friday trends: Crowds are getting bigger as stores open earlier and stay open later. □

Many stay skeptical in Moroccan parliamentary vote

SOUAD MEKHENNET

MAIA DE LA BAUME

© 2011 New York Times

CASABLANCA, Morocco — Yassine Bousalim, a 26-year-old chef from the poor neighborhood of Derb Sultan, where lingering smells of garbage fill the air, watched voters come and go Friday from the polling station across the street, with an air of disgusted detachment.

"I won't go and vote," he said. "I just don't think anything will come out of this." Bousalim is among the many young and disenchanted Moroccans who chose not to vote in their country's first parliamentary elections since the passage of a new constitution last year. That document, an effort by King Mohammed VI to respond to local and regional unrest during the Arab Spring, was approved in July. It gives more powers to Parliament and the prime minister, but

preserves most of the king's prerogatives, including absolute control over military and religious issues.

"Corruption is too big," said Bousalim, one of about 57 percent of the 13.5 million eligible voters younger than 35. "Each time we are confronted to an institution, we want to be treated with respect," he said.

Results are expected Saturday.

In contrast to Tunisia, where millions flooded to the polls to vote last month on the first free elections after the overthrow of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the turnout in Morocco is expected to be lower.

Still, this election is being watched closely as a significant and calibrated step toward democracy. The Tunisian elections were won by the main Islamist party, Ennahda.

The Interior Ministry said by 5 p.m., two hours before polls closed, about 34 per-



Moroccan Finance Minister Salaheddine Mezouar arrives at his polling station in the affluent Rabat neighborhood of Souissi flanked by his daughter Sarah and wife Karima Friday Nov. 25 2011. Moroccans voted Friday in parliamentary elections brought forward as part of the king's package of reforms to respond to the Arab Spring.

(AP Photo/Paul Schemm)

cent of registered voters had cast ballots.

But the change here may still be significant. The Islamist Justice and Development Party (PJD) is expected to do well; it could even become the country's largest party and, in a coalition government, provide the next prime minister, who will have the power to appoint ministers and dissolve Parliament.

"We believe that we will be the No. 1 party," said Abdellah Benkirane, the PJD's general-secretary in an interview. "Therefore the prime minister will be from our party," he said.

The PJD was founded in 1998 and is the largest opposition party, with 47 seats in Parliament. It has broadly appealed to Morocco's large numbers of poor voters by focusing on economic and social issues. It has paid attention to the success in Turkey of the governing AK Party,

which has fused religion and modern politics.

"They want the best for the country," said Iman Bajebour, 20, who took a break from her work as a nurse to cast a ballot for the PJD in Derb Gharaf, a poor neighborhood in Casablanca. "From my prospective, the PJD will fight corruption," she said.

But some Moroccans are nervous that the party would back anti-Western policies if brought to power. Last week, the French-language weekly "Tel Quel" splashed the headline, "Morocco will be Islamist," across its cover.

Other main contenders out of the many parties seeking seats include the Party of Authenticity and Modernity (PAM), created in 2009 out of several smaller parties by a close friend of the king, and Istiqlal, the historic party of independence, founded in 1944, and currently in power. □

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Occupy LA stands out for camp-city cooperation

CHRISTINA HOAG

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When Occupy LA demonstrators recently proclaimed a downtown intersection "our street," police watched as annoyed drivers honked horns and tried to maneuver around gyrating protesters. Officers only moved in after the third intersection takeover — telling protesters they had to quit or face arrest. The activists turned around and marched back to camp chanting slogans.

That hasn't happened in some other American cities and may not have been possible in Los Angeles that long ago.

Occupy LA, a 485-tent camp surrounding City Hall, has marched to a different beat in its drum circle after protesters, police and city officials established a relationship based on dialogues instead of dictates. As camps in other cities degenerated into unrest that led to mass arrests, Occupy LA has remained largely a peaceful commune. Police arrive on site only when called in to investigate petty crimes. Marches have resulted in only about five spontaneous arrests — the other 70 or so involved pro-



Occupy protestor Emer McKenna, 28, of Vermont, leans on the barricades before a march Friday, Nov. 25, 2011.

(AP Photo/John Minchillo)

testers who deliberately got arrested to make a political statement.

City leaders are now hoping that peace can withstand what could be its biggest test. The city has given campers a 12:01 a.m. (0801 GMT) Monday to clear out of the park, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa said at a Friday afternoon news conference.

"We've decided to do things differently here in Los Angeles. We've not stared

each other down across barricades and barbed wire," the mayor said at the City Hall news conference. "From the start we've talked to one another and we've listened to each other. I trust that we can manage the closure of City Hall Park in the same spirit of cooperation."

The announcement and the advance warning stand in stark contrast to middle-of-the-night police raids used in other cities.

"Los Angeles has had a real history of heavy-handed tactics with police," said Richard Weinblatt, a police procedures expert and former police chief. "They're taking a very good approach with this. It's a good political sign."

The hands-off strategy perhaps underscores the liberal leanings of a city that has often been known for counterculture movements. But it marks a departure for a police force still striving to

emerge from the shadow of the 1991 beating of Rodney King, the Rampart corruption scandal of the late '90s, and more recently, the 2007 crackdown at an immigrants rights rally in which demonstrators and reporters were injured with batons and rubber bullets. This time, even before the first tent was set up on the City Hall lawn, Jim Lafferty, a lawyer who has been representing Occupy LA, said Police Chief Charlie Beck assured him protesters would be left alone if they remained peaceful. Beck promised no surprise raids would be carried out, said Lafferty, executive director of the National Lawyers Guild's Los Angeles chapter.

Elected city leaders initially embraced the campers. Villaraigosa handed out plastic ponchos one rainy day. The City Council passed a resolution to support Occupy LA. Officials found an alternate site for a farmers market that the camp displaced.

Protesters have done their part to cooperate. They've readily complied with health inspectors' demands for more portable toilets, trash pickup and food sanitation. □

New bodies could bring US Craigslist toll to 3

ANDREW HUGGINS

THOMAS J. SHEERAN

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) —

The discoveries of two new bodies could bring to three the death toll from a Craigslist ad that police say lured victims into a lethal robbery scheme.

A body found Friday in a shallow grave near a mall in Akron may be that of a missing man who answered the ad, the FBI said. And a sheriff in a rural county said later in the day that the body of a white male without identification was found in a shallow grave about 90 miles away.

The FBI is working on the supposition that the body found near the Rolling Acres shopping mall in Akron may be that of 47-year-old Timothy Kern, who hasn't been seen in more than a week, agency spokeswoman Vicki Anderson said.

"Do we think it might be?

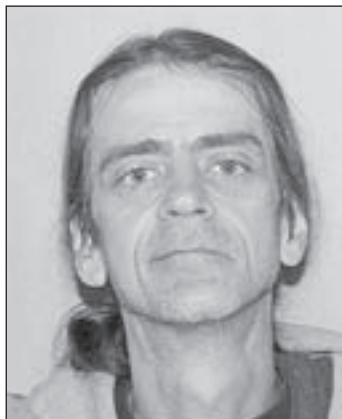
Maybe," Anderson said. "He's missing. We haven't been able to find him. It could possibly be, but we just don't know that yet."

Anderson declined to specify how authorities discovered the body.

Kern, of Massillon, answered the same ad for a farm hand that authorities say led to the shooting death of Norfolk, Va., resident David Pauley, 51, in a rural area south of Akron.

Noble County Sheriff Steve Hannum is under a judge's gag order and can't comment on the case, but the title of his emailed announcement late Friday — "second body" — implied the discovery was connected with Pauley's death.

Neighbors where Pauley's body was found last week and the second body was found Friday said police had been in the area and a helicopter had been overhead most of the day but



This is an undated hand out photo of Timothy Kern of Massillon, Ohio provided by the FBI. Kern, missing since Nov. 13, interviewed for a Craigslist help-wanted ad that police say was actually a deadly robbery scheme that lured people to a nonexistent farm job in southern Ohio, according to the man's father, who called the outlook for his son "pretty grim."

(AP Photo/The FBI)

the scene was quiet late in the day.

Two people from the Akron area are in custody: a high school student who has been charged with

attempted murder and 52-year-old Richard Beasley, who is in jail on unrelated charges.

Beasley's mother has said he has "a very caring heart" and she prays that newspaper reports he is a suspect are wrong.

FBI agents have contacted people to check on their well-being, FBI spokesman Harry Trombitas said Friday in an email.

One was Heather Tuttle, of Ravenna, who applied for the job Oct. 7 but never got a response.

She had forgotten about the posting until an FBI agent called and left a message for her Monday. When she called back, she was stunned at what the agent told her.

"It could have been me," said Tuttle, 27, who has since taken work as an assistant manager at a gas station.

"When the situation was explained to me, it just instant-

ly made me sick and made me realize how lucky I am that I didn't get a response back," she said.

Another man who responded to the ad has said he met Beasley at a food court at a different mall in the Akron area on Oct. 10. Ron Sanson was told the man was looking for an older, single or divorced person to watch over a 688-acre (280-hectare) farm in southeast Ohio — the kind of man, Sanson said, whose disappearance might not be quickly noticed.

Sanson and Kern are both divorced. So was Pauley. Sanson, 58, said he filled out an application and talked for about 20 minutes with Beasley about a \$300-a-week job overseeing a swath of land a mile from the nearest neighbor and living rent-free in a two-bedroom trailer with opportunities to hunt and fish and free access to ATVs and snowmobiles. □

Ohio gun-buyer background checks missing data: Report

Steve Bennish

Tiffany Y. Latta

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DAYTON, Ohio -- Ohio screens out mentally ill people who try to buy firearms, but the state isn't reporting all known drug abusers to a national system that could prevent them from buying guns, a first-of-its-kind survey of 50 states found.

Mayors Against Illegal Guns said in its report "Fatal Gaps" that federal agencies and states in some cases ignore federal law and fail to report records about potentially dangerous people to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, or NICS.

Analysis of FBI data showed that millions of records of seriously mentally ill people and drug abusers are missing from the NICS database because of lax and inconsistent reporting among the states.

Mayors, including leaders from Dayton, Riverside and Brookville, are advocates for tougher federal, state and local legislation against illegal firearm sales and ownership.

Ohio has identified 26,876 mental health cases and forwarded those since the state passed a law in 2004. But 23 states and the District of Columbia have submitted fewer than 100 mental health records to the federal database. Seventeen states submitted fewer than 10 mental health records, and four states haven't submitted any records. Substance abuse records also are underreported nationwide, and while many Ohio drug abusers show up in NICS when arrested and convicted, others fall through the cracks.

Ohio Attorney General's Office spokesman Dan Tierney said the state updates arrests and convictions daily through the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation. State law, however, lacks a provision for reporting all known drug abusers to the federal database, he added. □

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Ex-FBI chief named trustee in MF Global bankruptcy

NEW YORK (AP) — Former FBI Director Louis J. Freeh has been tapped to be the trustee for MF Global's bankruptcy case.

The U.S. Trustee for the New York region requested court approval for the appointment, according to documents filed Friday.

MF Global and a committee of its creditors asked the court on Monday for permission to name a trustee so that the company can get a binding commitment for financing while it is in bankruptcy and help it recover any funds left over after its customers are paid back.

U.S. Bankruptcy Court



The U.S. Trustee for the New York region requested court approval for the appointment, according to documents filed Friday.

Judge Martin Glenn in New York granted the motion the next day and ordered U.S. Trustee Tracy Hope Da-

vis to appoint a trustee for the case.

Davis selected Freeh, a former federal judge who served as director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation from 1993 through 2001.

Freeh is now chairman of Freeh Group International Solutions LLC, a global risk-management firm.

Freeh must obtain a bond of no less than \$26 million as part of his appointment, according to a separate court filing on Friday.

MF Global collapsed after making a disastrous bet on European debt.

It filed for U.S. bankruptcy protection on Oct. 31. The company also is being investigated by regulators and the FBI over whether it violated securities and criminal laws.

Freeh would be charged with reorganizing or liquidating MF Global's assets for the benefit of the company's estates, creditors and other stakeholders.

In its motion asking for the appointment of a trustee, MF Global said that a trustee would be best positioned to coordinate and manage requests from regulators and investigators looking into the company's dealings and would be able to arrange for the prompt return of funds that "rightfully belong to the debtors."

The company noted it hasn't been able to get a binding commitment for debtor-in-possession financing, but its lenders have agreed to make about \$26 million in cash collateral available to the company once a suitable trustee is appointed, according to the filing. □

New Hampshire city looks to halt refugee resettlements

ABBY GOODNOUGH
© 2011 New York Times

MANCHESTER, N.H. — This

city has long been a resettlement site for refugees, sent here by the State Department for a chance at a better life. More than 60 languages are spoken in the school system, with Somalis, Sudanese, Iraqis and other recent arrivals mixing with children whose ancestors came from Quebec to work in the mighty textile mills along the Merrimack River. But this year, after decades of taking in refugees, Manchester said, "Enough." In a highly unusual move, Mayor Ted Gatsas and the city's Board of Aldermen asked the State Department in July to halt resettlements here for now. A tide of more than 2,100 refugees over the last decade — most recently, Bhutanese families coming from camps in Nepal — has been more than the city of 109,500 can assure jobs and decent housing for, Gatsas said.

"We're just saying, let us catch our breath," he said last week in an interview at City Hall. "This is about giving people the opportunity for a better life, and until I can get that person working and gainfully employed and getting to learn the language, I can't do that." The mayor, a Republican who just won a second term, says he has nothing against refugees. His problem is with the International Institute of New England, a nonprofit agency based in Boston that brings them to Manchester and helps them adjust for several months, providing cash and other assistance.

Gatsas, a former businessman whose grandfather immigrated here from Greece a century ago, said the institute had consistently refused to seek the city's advice, most recently on its plan to bring 300 more refugees to Manchester in the current fiscal year. His effort to stanch the flow of newcomers from other countries is different, of course, from the battles raging against illegal immigration in other corners of the nation. Refugees come here legally, through a carefully planned process that brings them from hard-luck camps in some of the world's most troubled regions to some 200 cities and towns where local nonprofit groups help them settle. Two other cities have restrictions in place, according to the State Department: Detroit, where refugees can be resettled only if they have friends or family there already, and Fort Wayne, Ind., where only refugees with close relatives there can go. But while others have raised concerns about resettlement during the economic downturn, none have asked to stop it altogether, said Larry Bartlett, director of the State Department's Office of Refugee Admissions. "It's very rare," Bartlett said of Manchester's request. "Despite the challenges that accompany refugee resettlement and helping people remake their lives, I think it's such a core national value that communities find a way to continue even despite the poor economic times or other problems they may be experiencing."

For the International Institute, which has been resettling refugees in New Hampshire for decades,

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First student leaves Egypt

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Cairo airport official says the first of three American students arrested during a protest in Cairo has left Egypt.

Luke Gates, 21, left Cairo early Saturday morning on a flight to Frankfurt, Germany.

An Egyptian court ordered the release of Gates, along with Derrik Sweeney and Gregory Porter, both 19, on Thursday. All were studying at the American University in Cairo.

The three were arrested on the roof of a university building near Cairo's iconic Tahrir Square on Sunday. Officials accused them of throwing firebombs at security forces fighting with protesters.

The other two are expected to leave on separate flights later Saturday morning, the airport official said.

He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief reporters.

Attorney Theodore Simon, who represents the 19-year-old Porter, a student at Drexel University in Philadelphia, said police escorted the students to the airport late Friday local time.

Simon said he and Porter's mother both spoke by phone with the student, who is from the Philadelphia suburb of Glenside.

"He clearly conveyed to me ... that he was OK," Simon told the AP.

Joy Sweeney told the AP her son, a 19-year-old Georgetown University student from Jefferson City, Missouri, would fly from Frankfurt to Washington, then on to St. Louis.

She said family will meet him when he arrives late Saturday. □

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IRS likely not concerned

JOE CHILDS

© 2011 St. Petersburg Times FOR 40 years beginning in the 1950s, IRS officials sorted through the maze of corporate entities that compose Scientology, trying to make sense of the organization. So when the church made a bid in the early 1990s to have its tax-exempt status reinstated, the agency had questions. What about all those lawsuits against the church, including many saying it was slow to refund parishioners' money? If so many of Scientology's staff members and so much of its writings were devoted to making money, wasn't it really a business? How close is the relationship between the church and its well-financed membership group, the International Association of Scientologists? The church answered emphatically:

Refunds were granted □ no problem.
It wasn't obsessed with making money.
The IAS wasn't part of the church, and joining it was voluntary.
Scientology got its exemption in 1993. But former church insiders told the St. Petersburg Times that none of those answers holds true today. Many say the church is still slow to grant refunds. And its practices differ from what it told the IRS. The church now says refunds are granted only in "certain circumstances" and the law does not require they be returned at all. Former insiders say large numbers of church staffers are involved in raising money. That's not the impression the church left when it answered the IRS's questions. For example, it said, only 4 percent of its



For 40 years beginning in the 1950s, IRS officials sorted through the maze of corporate entities that compose Scientology, trying to make sense of the organization

staff worked in the finance department.

Membership in the IAS is not voluntary for practicing Scientologists, many former church members say. Parishioners are told it is a necessary step toward the church's upper levels of spiritual awareness.

"It was assumed and expected that every person doing services was a member (of the IAS)," said Hy Levy, who worked for 16 years as a church "registrar" in Clearwater, signing up parishioners for services. □



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Egypt's military under pressure from protests, US

HAMZA HENDAWI

SARAH EL DEEB

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The U.S. increased pressure Friday on Egypt's military rulers to hand over power to civilian leaders, and the generals turned to a Mubarak-era politician to head a new government in a move that failed to satisfy the more than 100,000 protesters who jammed Tahrir Square in the biggest rally yet this week.

The demonstrators rejected the appointment of Kamal el-Ganzouri as prime minister, breaking into chants of "Illegitimate! Illegitimate!" and setting up a showdown between the two sides only three days before key parliamentary elections.

The size of the rally and the resilience of protesters in the face of the violence used by security forces in this week's deadly street battles have won back for the movement much of the strength it projected during the 18-day uprising that ousted President Hosni Mubarak in February. Showing the sort of resolve from the earliest days of the Arab Spring, the protesters say they will not leave the iconic square until the military rulers led by Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi step down and a civilian presidential council is formed to run the country until a new leader is elected.

"They stole our January revolution because we did not agree on who should represent us," said activist Sede-



An Egyptian youth shows a tear gas canister used by riot police near the Egyptian Interior Ministry in downtown Cairo, Egypt, Friday, Nov. 25, 2011. Tens of thousands of protesters chanting, "Leave, leave!" filled Cairo's Tahrir Square in a massive demonstration to force Egypt's ruling military council to yield power. The Friday rally is dubbed by organizers as "The Last Chance Million-Man Protest," and comes one day after the military offered an apology for the killing of nearly 40 protesters in clashes on side streets near Tahrir over the last week.

(AP Photo/Bela Szandelszky)

eqah Abu Seadah. "We shouted 'erhal' (leave) but did not shout the name of the person we want."

The military's appointment of el-Ganzouri, its apology for the death of protesters and a series of partial concessions in the past two days suggest that the generals are struggling to overcome the most serious challenge to their nine-month rule, with fewer options now available to them.

Significantly adding to their predicament, the Obama administration brought its position on the crisis in Egypt closer to the protesters' demands, urging the military to fully empower the next interim civilian government.

"We believe that Egypt's transition to democracy must continue, with elections proceeding expeditiously, and all necessary measures taken to ensure security and prevent intimidation," the White House said in a statement.

"Most importantly, we believe that the full transfer of power to a civilian government must take place in a just and inclusive manner that responds to the legitimate aspirations of the Egyptian people, as soon as possible," it said.

The adjustment in the Obama administration's approach is significant because the Egyptian military, the nation's most powerful institution, has in the past 30 years forged

close relations with successive U.S. administrations, receiving \$1.3 billion annually in aid. It followed the public U.S. endorsement of the military's original timetable for the transfer of power by late 2012 or early 2013.

The choice of el-Ganzouri, who served as prime minister under Mubarak between 1996 and 1999, deepened the anger of the protesters, already seething over the military's perceived reluctance to dismantle the legacy of the ousted president's 29-year rule. Hundreds of protesters moved from Tahrir Square and began a sit-in outside the headquarters of the Cabinet, a few blocks away, vowing to prevent el-Ganzouri from entering. "The military council must go," the crowd chanted, "Military men must not rule."

The protest movement launched an attempt to unify its demands and present an alternative to el-Ganzouri. Twenty-four protest groups, including two political parties, announced they were creating their own "national salvation" government. They said it would be headed by a presidential council led by Nobel Peace laureate Mohamed ElBaradei with deputies from across the political spectrum to which they demanded the military hand over power. □

Syria ignores Arab League's new deadline

NADA BAKRI

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BEIRUT, Lebanon — Syria on Friday ignored an Arab League deadline to accept observers to oversee a peace deal to end more than eight months of bloodshed, with activists saying that several protesters and soldiers were killed during clashes across the country. Arab League officials said Thursday that if the government of President Bashar Assad failed to agree by Friday to sign a protocol detailing the mission of the observers, Arab finance ministers would meet Saturday in Cairo to discuss imposing sanctions that could include halting flights to Syria, curbing trade and stopping transactions with the country's central bank.

The new sanctions would deal a severe blow to an economy already suffering under sanctions from the European Union and the United States. Syria's two most vital sectors, oil and tourism, which account for more than a third of the government's revenues, have all but come to a halt.

Turkey announced Friday that its foreign minister would hold talks with foreign ministers from Arab nations in Cairo on Sunday to discuss Syria's failure to admit several hundred military and civilian observers. □

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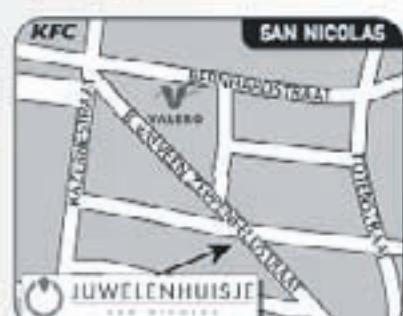
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Military tries to woo wider public beyond protesters

ANTHONY SHADID

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CAIRO — Some call it the silent majority. In Egypt these days, the preferred term is the Party of the Couch. And in that ill-defined constituency, sometimes more myth than reality, Egypt's ruling military has staked its credibility as it seeks to fend off the greatest challenge yet from protesters seeking to force it from power.

Drawing on sentiments pronounced Friday in the grittier parts of Cairo, even just a few blocks from the protests in Tahrir Square, and in a defiantly nationalist rally near the Defense Ministry, the military is offering either a canny read of Egypt's mood or yet another delusional estimation of its popularity, a mistake that has befooled so many autocrats. With a mix of bravado and disdain, it has hewed to a narrative first pronounced after it seized power from President Hosni Mubarak in February: It bears the mantle of Egypt's revolution.

"Egypt is not Tahrir Square," Maj. Gen. Mukhtar el-Malla, a member of the 20-member military council ruling since February, said in a news conference this week. "If you take a walk on other streets in Egypt, you will find that everything is very normal."

In much of Cairo, and elsewhere in Egypt, the military



Local residents of Shobra, a working-class neighborhood of Cairo where some people expressed disagreement with the events in Tahrir Square. Egypt's military is staking its credibility on an ill-defined constituency called the Party of the Couch, which it believes yearns for stability.

(Moises Saman/The New York Times)

has found a receptive audience for that message in a country buckling under a stagnating economy and a lurking insecurity. Even as it promises to surrender power by June, it has deployed all the platitudes of authoritarian Arab governments: fear of foreign intervention, fear of chaos and fear of the rabble. One doctor quipped Friday that the sole change since the revolution was an extra digit added this year to cellphone num-

bers.

"If the military goes, who will inherit power from them?" asked Mohammed Abdel-Aziz, 61, sitting before his watch store in Cairo's Opera Square.

Mubarak famously made the same bet, only to depart in disgrace in a helicopter 18 days after protests began in January.

The lesson then was that a revolution is not a referendum, and the symbolism channelled by Tahrir Square represented a dynamic long dismissed by Arab rulers.

The revolution was sometimes conflated with the square itself, so much so that Essam Sharaf, who resigned as prime minister this week, declared in a visit there in April that "I am here to draw my legitimacy from you." □



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matinee:	12:45 - 3:30	matinee:	12:15 - 3:00
late show:	11:45	late show:	11:15
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN PART 1		THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN PART 1	
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matinee:	12:30 - 3:15	matinee:	12:00 - 2:45
late show:	11:30	late show:	11:00
THE BIG YEAR		THE BIG YEAR	
daily:	9:15	daily:	9:15
matinee:		matinee:	
late show:	11:45	late show:	11:45
PUSS IN BOOTS		PUSS IN BOOTS	
daily:	12:00 - 2:15	daily:	4:30 - 7:00
matinee:		matinee:	12:00 - 2:15
late show:		late show:	
HAPPY FEET 2 IN 2D		HAPPY FEET 2 IN 2D	
daily:	4:30	daily:	1:00 - 3:30
matinee:	2:00	matinee:	
late show:		late show:	
IMMORTALS 3D		THE RUM DAIRY	
daily:	4:30 - 7:00 - 9:30	daily:	6:15 - 9:00
matinee:		matinee:	12:45 - 3:30
late show:	12:00	late show:	12:00
JOHNNY ENGLISH REBORN		TOWER HEIST	
daily:	7:00 - 9:30	daily:	6:00 - 8:45
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Bodies identified in Mexico mass slaying

ARTURO PEREZ NAVARRO

Associated Press

GUADALAJARA, Mexico (AP) — A baker, a truck driver, a soft-drink vendor and a dental technician were among the 26 men found bound, gagged, slain and left in the center of Guadalajara, a state prosecutor said Friday. Written in motor oil on the victims' bodies were the names of the Zetas and Millennium drug cartels. Law enforcement officials and analysts saw that as a possible indication the two allied gangs were announcing their intent to seize a city historically controlled by the powerful Sinaloa cartel.

The Zetas and Sinaloa have emerged from years of Mexican drug wars as the largest cartels in the nation, and potential competitors for control of smuggling and other businesses worth billions of dollars a year. Both frequently form alliances of convenience with smaller local gangs. Analysts cautioned, however, that the killers in Guadalajara may also have been engaging in an isolated act of retaliation for the slaughter of dozens of men dumped on a roadway in September 600 miles away in the eastern, Gulf coast city of Veracruz. Authorities



A soldier patrols as a vehicle that was discovered carrying bodies inside is taken away in Guadalajara, Mexico, Thursday Nov. 24, 2011. At least 20 bodies were discovered early Thursday in three vehicles abandoned in the heart of Guadalajara, Mexico's second-largest city and the site of the recent Pan American Games, according to an official with the prosecutor's office in the state of Jalisco.

blamed that killing on the New Generation, a gang believed to be working with the Sinaloa cartel. A video posted by men claiming to be the Veracruz killers said the victims were Zetas. The next few weeks will be crucial in determining whether Guadalajara, Mexico's second largest city, begins dissolving into the chaotic killing, kidnapping and streetfighting that has devastated cities and towns along the U.S. border, said Samuel Logan, director of Southern Pulse, a risk analysis firm specializ-

ing in Latin American organized crime.

"The Mexican government has to react quickly and strongly," Logan said. "This could be the beginning of Guadalajara moving into a more insecure environment ... We need a little more time to watch things play out."

The identities of 14 of the men slain in Guadalajara were released Friday by Jalisco state prosecutor Tomas Coronado, who said that only two had criminal records, without providing details.

(AP Photo/Victor Fernandez)

Among the victims were Alejandro Robles Vidal, 22, who had been working as a dental technician in the nearby city of Zapopan for three years and disappeared Monday evening. He was identified by his father, Coronado said.

Also among the dead was Jose Antonia Parga Guareno, 23, a cargo-truck driver who disappeared Tuesday and was identified by his father, Coronado said.

The prosecutor cautioned the press and public not to draw conclusions about the victims' potential in-

vovement in drug cartel activity, saying that would be one of the subjects of the investigation.

He said the victims died of strangulation or blows to the head.

Earlier, he told MVS Radio that even though a message signed by the Zetas was left in one of the cars, investigators had not confirmed that the cartel was responsible.

Guadalajara sits on the main highway running through western Mexico from the methamphetamine-producing state of Michoacan north toward the Pacific Coast state of Sinaloa where the cartel of the same name is based.

In recent months, security officials and analysts have worried that Guadalajara could become a target for the Zetas, which has rapidly expanded since breaking with its old allies in the Gulf cartel in 2010.

The Zetas have been expanding west from their base on the Gulf coast, and Sinaloa has apparently been sending proxy forces eastward into the territory of the Zetas or their allies.

Killings in Guadalajara slowed to a trickle during the Oct. 15-30 Pan American Games, which brought a big influx of police and soldiers. Law enforcement officials and analysts said they were nonetheless concerned a Zetas onslaught could be imminent.

On Wednesday, 17 bodies were found burned in two pickup trucks in a strikingly similar attack in Sinaloa, the home state of the Sinaloa cartel. □

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Venezuela receives first gold shipment from Europe

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — President Hugo Chavez's government began repatriating Venezuela's gold reserves from European banks Friday as the first shipment arrived on a flight from Paris.

Troops guarded the shipment in a caravan of at least five armored vehicles that carried the gold to the Central Bank in Caracas. A group of government supporters cheered and waved flags as the caravan passed, with soldiers holding their rifles at the ready. Two light tanks escorted the shipment.

Chavez announced in August that his government would retrieve more than 211 tons of gold held in U.S. and European banks.

Chavez announced earlier Friday that the first of the gold was on its way.

"It's coming to the place it never should have left. ... The vaults of the Central Bank of Venezuela, not the bank of London or the bank of the United States," Chavez said. "It's our gold."

He said that previously the gold was held in Britain. He didn't specify the bank nor say how much was in the shipment. The leftist president has said his decision to repatriate the gold reserves is aimed at helping to protect the oil-producing country from economic troubles in the United States and Europe.

Economist Pedro Palma, who is a professor at the



Soldiers stand guard as an armored truck containing gold reserves arrives to the Central Bank in Caracas, Venezuela, Friday Nov. 25, 2011. President Hugo Chavez's government began repatriating Venezuela's gold reserves from European banks Friday as the first shipment arrived on a flight from Paris.

(AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

Institute of Higher Studies of Administration, said he saw no economic justification

for moving the gold. "From the economic point view, it is the same to have it here

as in England. The reserves will not change because of this," Palma said. □

Escapees caught off island penal colony

MARK STEVENSON
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Six inmates from the last island penal colony in the Americas were recaptured at sea after they used buoyant containers and wood planks to try to swim to freedom in an escape reminiscent of the 1973 movie "Papillon."

The Mexican navy said the inmates used empty plastic gas or water tanks to help stay afloat as they swam about 60 miles (90 kilometers) south of the Islas Marias, a Mexican penal colony where inmates live in small houses and are normally not locked up. Prisoners can tend small gardens and raise food.

The six men were only about 60 miles from the Pacific coast resort of Puerto Vallarta when they were spotted by a passing boat early Thursday.

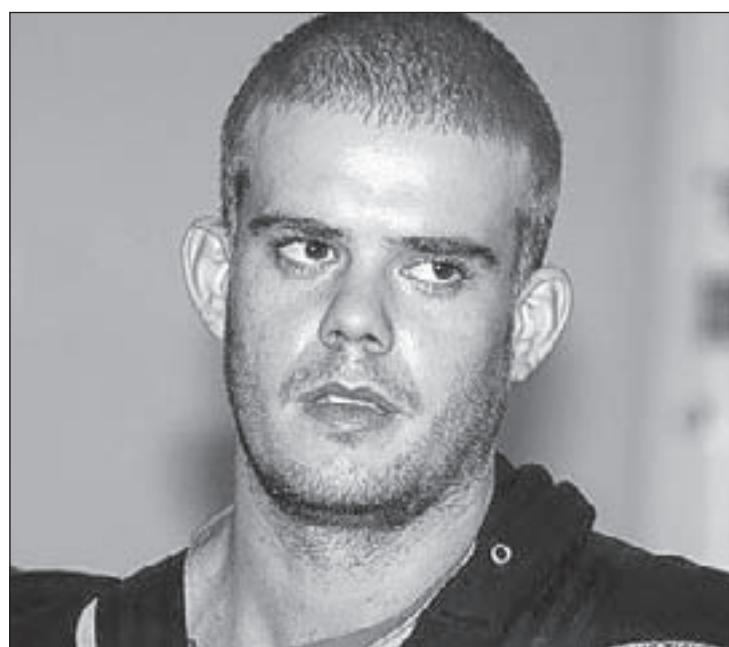
The boat called in a tip to a local naval base, and patrol boats were quickly dispatched to take the men into custody.

Photos provided by the navy showed them men sunburned but alert — and unhappy — on the deck of the patrol vessel.

The men, who range in age from 28 to 39 years, were taken back to Puerto Vallarta for a medical check and to be turned back over to prison authorities.

Later, the federal Public Safety Department, which is in charge of Mexico's federal prisons, said the men had been found to be in acceptable health and would be returned to the penal colony "within hours." □

Murder trial date set for Van der Sloot



A Peruvian judge has set Jan. 6 as the trial date for Joran van der Sloot (featured) in the killing of a Peruvian woman five years to the day after U.S. student Natalee Holloway disappeared.

LIMA, Peru (AP) — A Peruvian judge has set Jan. 6 as the trial date for Joran van

der Sloot in the killing of a Peruvian woman five years to the day after U.S. student

Natalee Holloway disappeared. The 24-year-old Van der Sloot remains the prime suspect in Holloway's 2005 disappearance on the Caribbean island of Aruba.

Peruvian prosecutors are seeking 30 years in prison for the Dutchman on first-degree murder charges in the killing of Stephany Flores.

Van der Sloot met the 21-year-old Lima student in a casino and took him to his hotel room.

He confessed to the killing but says he became enraged upon finding Flores reading about the Holloway case on his laptop.

Flores' family and prosecutors contend he planned the killing in order to rob the young woman. □

Skyrim lets gamers roam world, slay dragons at their leisure

SETH SCHIESEL

© 2011 New York Times

Want to get lost? Play The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim.

I mean lost in the best possible sense. As in, "Where did those six hours go?" As in, "I don't really need to go shopping today." As in, "Hello, Mr. Sunrise."

When it comes to offline single-player games, no recent title will draw players in for hundreds of hours as readily as Skyrim. Plenty of games promise to let you unleash your inner all-conquering hero (or anti-hero), endowed with the power to shape both your own epic destiny and the fate of the world. Almost none deliver on that promise as thoroughly as Skyrim.

In Skyrim, developed by Bethesda Game Studios for Windows, Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3, you are set loose on a vast fantasy continent populated by thousands of software-controlled monsters and characters. There are teeming towns filled with merchants, beggars, guards, thieves, craftsmen and kings. There are tundra and forests, plains and swamps. There



A screenshot of "Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim," in an undated handout photo. In Skyrim, developed by Bethesda Game Studios for Windows, Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3, you are set loose on a vast fantasy continent populated by thousands of software-controlled monsters and characters.

(Bethesda Game Studios via The New York Times)

are steep peaks and river gorges, hidden shrines and bandit keeps. There are assassination plots to uncover (or perpetrate) and deep, dank crypts hiding ancient treasure. There are giants and ogres and goblins and demons and spirits and, not least, plenty of dragons. Skyrim is modern fantasy role-playing of the highest order. It is akin to the "Game of Thrones" of video games:

sweeping, almost daunting in scope, richly realized and fully able to absorb fans for months or even years. Like great fantasy literature, this game has a deep lore and back story (developed over the past 17 years since the series made its debut in 1994 with The Elder Scrolls: Arena) propelling current events. Things happen for a reason. But unlike a novel, a great role-playing game

like Skyrim lets you shape those events and become a player on the world stage. The key to Skyrim, indeed to the entire Elder Scrolls series, is that the game is set up like one huge fantasy playground. You are completely in charge. You can go where you want, when you want, how you want and do what you want once you get there. There is a strong central plotline, but

you are free to blow it off completely from the outset. It is possible to spend dozens of hours exploring Skyrim and making your character more powerful before you even touch the main story line. You can join the Mage Guild, infiltrate the Thieves Guild, take sides in a civil war or just roam the wilderness, delving into dungeons and slaying wyrms.

When gamers and game executives talk about "open-world games" they usually are referring to the likes of Grand Theft Auto, Assassin's Creed, Red Dead Redemption and Batman: Arkham City. But none of those set you in a virtual environment as realistically intricate as Skyrim's. More confining, none of those games even let you decide who you are. Instead you are one particular character, defined by the game's creators. You can decide how that character progresses through its story, but you don't control the basic parameters of who that character is and how it makes its way in the world.

Even most fantasy role-playing games lock each character into a defined class, like wizard, warrior or priest. By contrast, a hallmark of the Elder Scrolls series is that you can mix and match various skills and races, like cat people and lizardfolk. Want to become a master thief with a silver tongue and a vast black-market network of fences? Go right ahead.

Skyrim isn't perfect. The interface, especially on Windows, is a clunky, frustrating mess, and the game's subpar technical performance on the PlayStation 3 should be an embarrassment for Bethesda. Yet over Thanksgiving I heard from a family friend who attends college in New Jersey that Skyrim is the absolute rage among gamers on her campus. That doesn't surprise me because there are very few games that deliver Skyrim's level of immersion and empowerment. And that may not be something that newer generations of gamers are familiar with. □

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LOCAL Aruba TODAY

Johnny Walker informs and entertains bar staff on the island



PALM BEACH – Romar Trading, distributors of Johnny Walker on the island undertook a giant brand promotion when International Brand Ambassador Arturo Savage was invited to inform and entertain food & beverage specialists here. This week, the Striding Man was featured in back-to-back seminars and tastings taking place at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa, as well as during an exclusive dinner in honor of the local press hosted at Texas de Brazil.

Savage, entrusted with the whiskey portfolio of Diagio, a consumer goods giant, marketing and distributing world-famous drink brands,

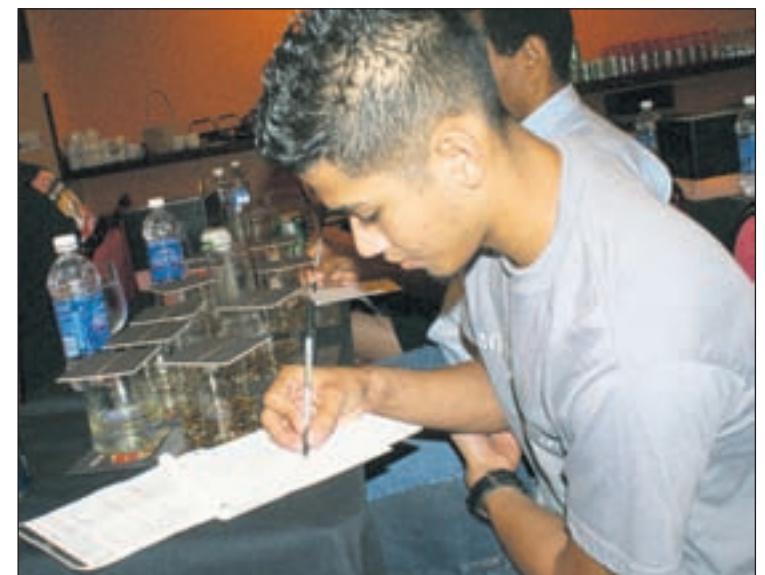
conducted the tastings of Johnny Walker Whiskey, Red Label, Black Label, Green Label, Gold Label and Blue Label, teaching the proper presentation and ritual expected of the brand.

Special attention was paid to the Blue Label, achieved with the combination of rare whiskies and rare skills. Savage taught his students the proper temperature of serving and the proper ice water presentation, the glassware and wow-factor which accompany sipping a complex and rewarding spirit.

Pictured here those who were privileged to sample all labels of the award-win-



ning family of Scotch whisky, under the watchful eye of Mariuccia Amaddeo and Patrick Figaroa of Romar Trading, with other members of the Romar Trading team, Betto Wernet, Gunnar Leonardo who handle Diagio on Aruba, and local Johnny Walker Brand Ambassador, the Striding Man himself, Boefie Barbour. □



A donation from Zwembad 'De Hoorn' in Holland

Four swimsuits for the children of the Mi Por foundation

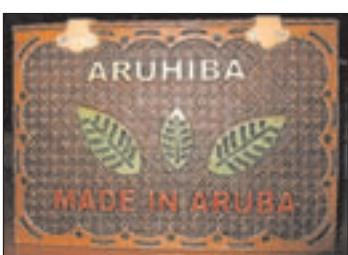
ORANJESTAD - Four really cool swimsuits, especially designed for physically challenged children, are now on Aruba. The colorful suits were proudly displayed by swimming instructors Hans Zwarts and Anjo Zwart last Thursday afternoon; they came to the island via their personal connections with Zwembad De Hoorn in Alphen aan de Rijn in Holland. There Mrs. Adri Punt and Rolanda van 't Wout learned about the Mi Por Foundation (Mi Por means I Can) and as the suits were the hottest thing around and a great tool as well, they decided to donate four of the models to this very worthy charity, which supports physically challenged children and their families in countless ways, among them swimming lessons. The suits have floating devices that can be inserted or taken out as needed. They are great-looking and we are sure that the kids will love to wear them during their next class. Photo shows Hans and Anjo showing one of the special bathing suits from Holland.□



Aruhiba, The 1 and Only Homemade Aruban Cigar



ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is



specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars.

The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open from Monday to Saturday from 9am till 8:30pm. And open on Sunday from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores.

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Amazonia Churrascaria celebrates Thanksgiving by pardoning Turkey



PALM BEACH — While Turkeys got a reprieve, beef did not, served deliciously

seasoned and perfectly grilled at busy tables at Amazonia Churrascaria on

Thanksgiving Day. Some international guests never even realized it was Thanksgiving Day, they were in the mood for steak and steak they got, in limitless quantities to their heart's content.

From Sweden, staying at the Mill Resort & Suites, Mr. and Mrs. Edstrom, on their first visit to Aruba, enjoyed every bite of the carnivorous experience. First timers in Aruba, the Salems, from NY, did too, forgoing Turkey and all the trimming in favor of juicy flavorful beef, chicken and lamb.

On a repeat-repeat visit to the restaurant the Maitland from Illinois and Michigan, and the Maderazzo from California and Nevada. Family members enjoyed quality time in community, celebrating the spirit of the holiday together. □



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Delicious Lobster Specialties at The Blue Lobster Restaurant



PALM BEACH – The Blue Lobster Restaurant just recently opened its doors on Palm Beach with a noble culinary mission, to create and serve the most delicious lobster dishes. In recent years beef has overtaken the restaurant scene occupying large menu por-

in Montblanc, Switzerland, and two more stars for Bumann's Chesa Pirani, in the stylish, swanky resort town of St. Moritz, Switzerland. When Chef Sandro arrived here, he also found love, a world-famous, natural aphrodisiac, losing his heart to Haildy Herold-Castano,

Beach road.

There, the curtain goes up every lunch and dinner on twenty-five lobster dishes which even the most-discerning customers love. From his kitchen, the young chef is content to please taste buds with an outstanding variety of veritable lobster feasts! The Blue Lobster Restaurant is proud to belong to that charming category of mom and pap boutique operations. With Chef Sandro in the kitchen and German in the dining room, assisted by his wife Silma Castano-Ridderstap, the team enthusiastically goes about the business of making guests happy. Incidentally, German is a well known hospitality executive on the island having contributed greatly to the success of many resorts and timeshares here. German reports that at the Blue Lobster Restaurant patrons savor the special taste of the Caribbean, laced with international flavors. The innovative menu created by Chef Sandro includes Warm Appetizers, Cold Ap-



irresistible selection of Local Creole Dishes. The restaurant features Daily specials, and also promotes unique BBQ Ribs, flavored with a homemade Oregano sauce, and a secret Indonesian touch! German eagerly shares that over the last few weeks, Chef Sandro has received a number of standing ovations, and much adoration

THANK-YOU for visiting our beautiful island, this is an invitation to be one of us... on SATURDAY, your dinner check may be paid in Flo-rins, which practically cuts the charge in half! Chef Sandro also invites patrons to come to the Blue Lobster Restaurant, on their birthdays or anniversaries, as Birthday Boys & Birthday Girls receive a 50% discount



tions in many eateries, robbing lobster of its rightful title as the most-highly-prized of all foods, until the arrival of Chef Sandro Herold on our shores. The chef arrived here equipped with impressive credentials, having worked in Switzerland in not just one, but two Michelin-rated restaurants, securing two stars for the Parisanni

which immediately inspired him to invent amazing Lobster & Seafood combinations, celebrating lady-love, her family and friends. Then her Dad, German Castano, decided to share the culinary bounty with even more family members and friends, helping Chef Sandro open the Blue Lobster Restaurant, on the Palm

petizers, Main Courses of freshly caught fish, hooked and brought in by local fishermen, shrimp from the waters around the island and USDA Beef. The menu also lists Soups, Salads and Desserts. The separate Lobster Menu boasts a unique and exclusive array of delicate dishes. Lunch guests are pleased to discover an

from guests who came for dinner and had so much to choose from, that they came back for a repeat visit, on the following night! Best of all, the prices at the Blue Lobster Restaurant are very reasonable and as a special gesture Saturday is local & tourist appreciation day, as Chef Sandro puts it: Our way of saying

on their meal, ID required. The Blue Lobster Restaurant serves lunch: 11am till 2pm, walk-ins are welcome, and nightly dinner, with the first seating at 6pm, and the second at 8pm. Smoking is permitted on the open terrace, where you may enjoy smoking between courses. www.arubabluelobster.com □



Harbaugh Bowl: John's Ravens beat Jim's 49ers

Baltimore Ravens head coach John Harbaugh, foreground, hugs his brother, San Francisco 49ers head coach Jim Harbaugh, after their NFL football game in Baltimore on Thursday, Nov. 24, 2011. Baltimore won 16-6. The Harbaughs became the first brothers to face each other as NFL head coaches.

Associated Press
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College Roundup No. 1 LSU powers past No. 3 Arkansas

BATON ROUGE, Louisiana (AP)—In the biggest game at Tiger Stadium in half a century, No. 1-ranked Louisiana State came from 14 points down to beat No. 3-ranked Arkansas 41-17 on Friday and secure a spot in college football Southeastern Conference championship game.

Tyrann Mathieu returned a punt 92 yards for a score and the Tigers punished Arkansas with 286 yards rushing.

Kenny Hilliard, Spencer Ware and quarterback Jordan Jefferson all scored with runs for LSU, which is 12-0 for the first time and will play No. 13 Georgia next weekend in Atlanta.

A win over the Bulldogs would assure the Tigers their third trip to college football's title game in nine seasons.

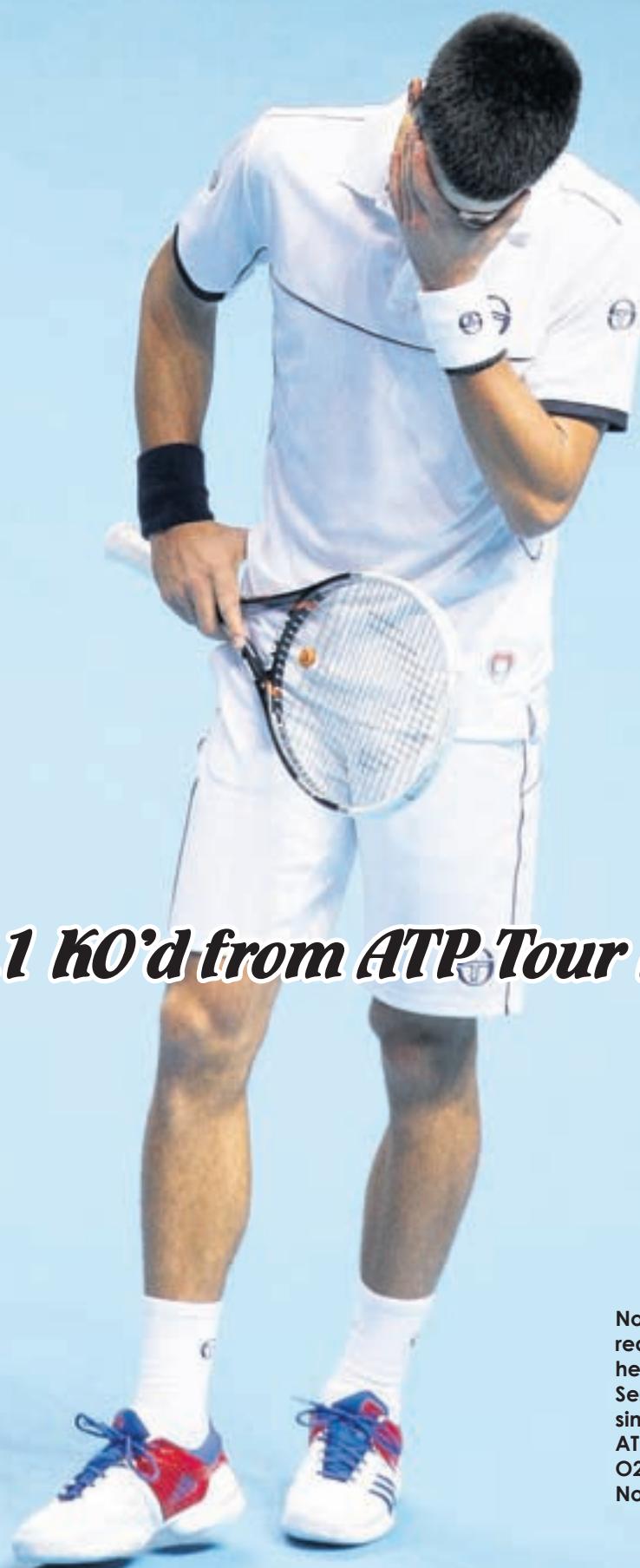
Though at this point, LSU might be able to get there even if it loses.

Arkansas took a surprising 14-0 lead on Tyler Wilson's touchdown pass to Jarius Wright and Alonzo Highsmith's 47-yard fumble return, but LSU stormed back by scoring 41 of the next 44 points in the game.

The rivalry game known as the battle for "The Boot," a trophy in the shape of Arkansas and Louisiana, marked the first time two teams ranked in the top three had met in Death Valley since 1959, when No. 1 LSU won 7-3 over No. 3 Mississippi.

Continued on Page 21

NO DJO



World No.1 KO'd from ATP Tour Finals

Novak Djokovic of Serbia reacts after missing a point as he plays Janko Tipsarevic of Serbia during their round robin singles tennis match at the ATP World Tour Finals, at the O2 arena in London, Friday, Nov. 25, 2011.

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Noah: accusations on doping were a wake-up call

JEROME PUGMIRE

AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — Yannick Noah says his accusations of doping being rife in Spanish sport were intended as a global wake-up call to sports authorities he feels should be doing more to catch drug cheats — but he maintains that Spain is tainted.

In an interview with a French newspaper last week, the former French Open tennis champion accused Spanish athletes of widespread doping.

He said that the only way to level the playing field for struggling French and other athletes would be to allow everyone to use the "magic potion," or banned drugs. "If I chose this turn of phrase, it was to address the authorities ... in order to start a debate," Noah said Friday on the website of newspaper Le Monde that

published his comments last week.

Those accusations drew criticism from Spanish athletes such as 10-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal, and from the French Tennis Federation, which distanced itself from Noah. "I am a bit frustrated that there are two weights and two measures in terms of doping, whether it's Spain or another country," Noah continued. "Of course all Spanish athletes aren't doped ... (But) are (the French) worse than the others? I don't think so."

Nadal said Noah should be banned from commenting in the media, while Barcelona's football coach Pep Guardiola told him to produce proof or stay quiet.

"I went through the same thing 30 years ago, when I was 20. I spoke about doping and drugs and everyone had a go at me," Noah



In this May 27, 2008 file photo, former tennis ace Yannick Noah, of France, during the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris.

Associated Press

said. "I couldn't respond to everyone. To Toni Nadal, Rafael's uncle, who's told his nephew never to say hello to me again. But what do I care if he says hello to me or not?"

Noah refused to back down from his view that Spain remains tainted by doping.

He cited cases involving cyclist Alberto Contador's positive doping test when he won the 2010 Tour de France, world steeplechase champion Marta Dominguez, and the Operation Puerto blood-doping investigation as examples.

"The cyclist who ate some meat that helped him pedal faster and who was cleared by his federation, the case of (Dominguez) stopped by the police and then cleared," Noah said.

"My question is the following: Is this not all orchestrated? In the Puerto case, I have the feeling that the affair has been smothered, that names have been hidden." Dominguez was among 14 people detained in December 2010 as part of the "Operation Galgo" doping investigation, but a

Madrid court cleared her of doping and of trafficking performance-enhancing substances.

This led to an investigation into Spain's Civil Guard for irregularities in managing her case.

Seven people linked to Puerto will stand trial in Spain, facing up to two years in prison. They include sports doctor Eufemiano Fuentes, former Liberty Seguros team boss Manolo Saiz and five others arrested in 2006 on suspicion of providing doping services to cyclists.

Puerto implicated more than 50 cyclists but Spanish sports bodies could not use evidence to ban athletes because of Spanish law, which has since changed.

On Thursday, sport's highest court completed a four-day hearing into Contador's 2010 Tour case. □

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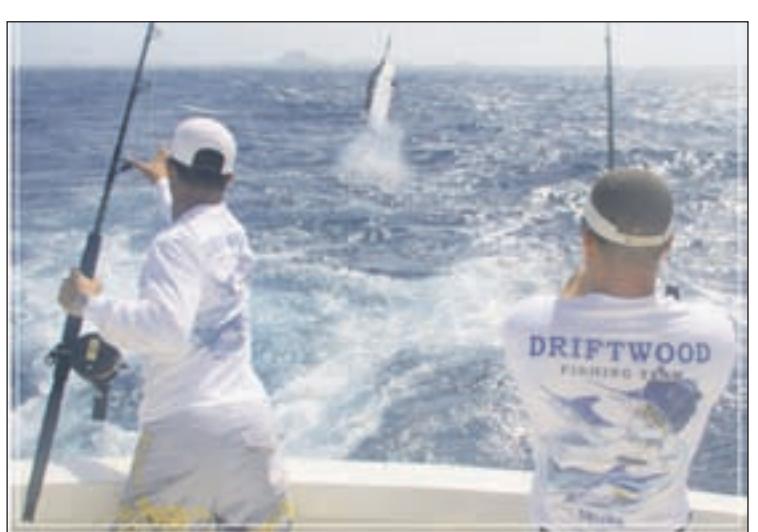
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Djokovic eliminated from ATP World Tour Finals

MATTIAS KAREN
AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — All that success finally caught up with Novak Djokovic. A weary Djokovic finished his spectacular season by losing more matches in three days than he did in the first seven months of the year, earning the top-ranked Serb an early elimination from the ATP World Tour Finals. After winning three Grand Slam titles and seizing the No. 1 ranking from Rafael Nadal before having the last few months derailed by injuries, Djokovic had simply run out of energy coming into the season-ending tournament in London. "What is missing ... is that freshness," Djokovic said after losing 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 to fellow Serb Janko Tipsarevic in their final group match. "The will to win, just being on the court, giving 100 percent. I'm not able to do that now because I just have very little left."

Despite finishing the group stage with a 1-2 record, Djokovic would have reached the last four if Tomas Berdych had lost to David Ferrer in the final round-robin match, but the seventh-seeded Czech rallied from a set and a break down to beat Ferrer 3-6, 7-5, 6-1 to grab the last semifinal spot for himself. Ferrer will face Roger Federer in Saturday's first semifinal, before Berdych takes on Jo-Wilfried Tsonga. The three highest ranked players in the world failed to make it out of the group stage. Second-ranked Rafael Nadal was eliminated after losing to Tsonga on Thursday, while No. 3 Andy Murray pulled out injured following his opening loss to Ferrer. Djokovic, meanwhile, can start packing his bag for the Maldives, where he plans to join Tipsarevic for a vacation next week as he tries to recharge for next year. "I look forward to go for a much needed rest," he said. "I had an unbelievable year. Nothing can really ruin that. I will always remember this year as the best of my life."

Still, it was a disappointing

end to one of the greatest seasons men's tennis has ever seen. Djokovic went undefeated in 41 matches in 2011 until losing to Federer in the French Open semifinals. His next loss didn't come until he had to retire with an injury against Murray in the final of the Cincinnati Masters in August. In between, he beat Nadal for his first Wimbledon title, and he again defeated the Spaniard in the U.S. Open final. But he hurt his back in that final and had to retire from a decisive singles match in Serbia's Davis Cup semifinal against Argentina's Juan Martin del Potro the next weekend, leading to a six-week injury layoff. In his return in Basel, he lost to Kei Nishikori of Japan in the semifinals, and then withdrew before his quarterfinal against Tsonga in Paris. In all, he won 10 tournaments and came into London with a 69-4 record.

But after beating Berdych in three sets in his first match, he lost 6-3, 6-1 to Ferrer on Wednesday, which tied for the worst defeat for a No. 1-ranked player since 1983. Against Tipsarevic, Djokovic showed flashes of the spectacular shotmaking that made him practically unbeatable earlier in the year, but he was broken twice in each of the last two sets, and sent a forehand into the net on Tipsarevic's third match point. "I lost a match that I think I was on the way to win," Djokovic said. "But if this is my last match in the Masters Cup, I'll be happy because I think, at least comparing to the match against Ferrer, I played a little bit better."

Tipsarevic entered the tournament as an alternate after Murray pulled out and had no chance of advancing after losing his first match to Berdych — but still managed to earn his first win in four meetings against his fellow Serb.

"Not trying to undermine my performance or my victory today, (but) I can freely say that this was not Novak Djokovic from the U.S. Open or Wimbledon,"

Tipsarevic said. "Which is in a way normal. He won everything a person can win. He had the best season, if I'm not mistaken, in the history of this sport."

Djokovic's season looked set to continue when Ferrer took control of the match against Berdych, twice going up a break in the second set. But the Czech broke back immediately both times, before breaking for a third time when the Spaniard sent a backhand long on set point. Ferrer, who had already qualified for the semis by winning his first two matches, then offered little resistance in the third, as Berdych raced out to a 5-0 lead before clinching the victory with a forehand volley. □



Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic plays a return to David Ferrer of Spain during their round robin tennis match at the ATP World Tour Finals, at the O2 arena in London, Friday, Nov. 25, 2011.

Associated Press

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Ravens beat 49ers 16-6 in duel of Harbaughs

By DAVID GINSBURG

BALTIMORE (AP) — John Harbaugh could have gloated. He could have bragged. Instead, the Baltimore Ravens coach played the role of gracious big brother after he bested Jim Harbaugh and the San Francisco 49ers 16-6 Thursday night in the first NFL game featuring brothers as opposing head coaches. The Ravens (8-3) tied a franchise record with nine sacks to end San Francisco's eight-game winning streak. "To the 49ers and to my brother, I can't tell you enough how proud I am of him and the job he's done building that football team," John said of Jim, a rookie NFL coach. "That's a football team. The way they're built, it's pretty hard to figure out a way to beat them."

John, 49, and Jim, 47, grew up dueling each other in all sorts of games. This, however, was the first time their sibling rivalry was displayed on a national stage.

During the final minute, John got a Gatorade bath

from his players — twice. After the game ended, the brothers hugged at midfield.

"There's a saying that says, 'As iron sharpens iron, so does one man sharpen another,'" Jim said. "And I have to say my brother John is the sharpest iron I've ever encountered in my life."

The Ravens chased, hindered and battered 49ers quarterback Alex Smith for much of the night despite playing without middle linebacker Ray Lewis, the team's leading tackler and spiritual leader. Lewis was inactive for a second straight game with a foot injury.

Smith completed 15 of 24 passes for 140 yards and an interception, and San Francisco (9-2) was held without a touchdown for the first time this season. Smith never could get into a rhythm against an aggressive defense that rarely let him set up in the pocket.

"It's tough to get ready for a defense like that in a short week. They do so many things," he said. "They're a



Baltimore Ravens tight end Dennis Pitta, center, celebrates his touchdown with teammates Anquan Boldin (81) and Torrey Smith (82) in the second half of an NFL football game against the San Francisco 49ers in Baltimore on Thursday, Nov. 24, 2011.

Associated Press

great front. At home with the crowd noise, they were teeing off."

Terrell Suggs had three sacks for first-place Baltimore, which moved a half-game ahead of the Pittsburgh Steelers in the AFC North.

"That's always the game plan, to get after the quar-

terback, but I think the No. 1 game plan was to win the Harbaugh Bowl," Suggs said. "Coach tried to downplay it — act like it's not me against my brother, this is the Ravens vs. the 49ers and let's get win No. 8 and make sure our destiny is in

our own hands — but it was really important to him. We

Suh's stomp won't be reviewed before next week

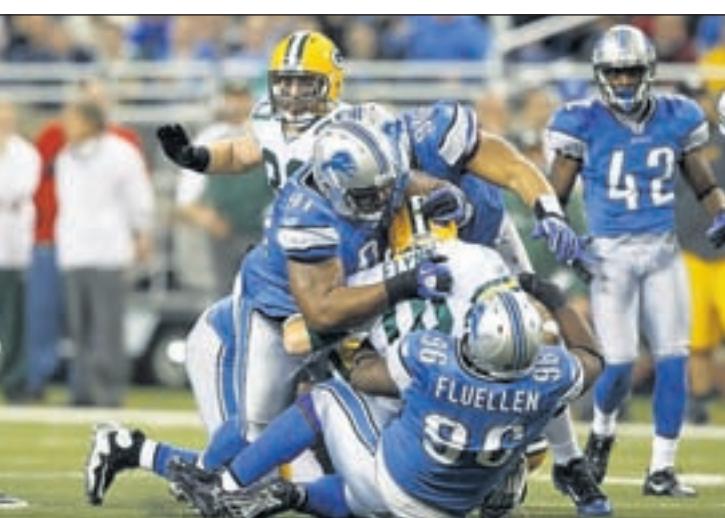
By NOAH TRISTER

DETROIT (AP) — For the first season-and-a-half of his young career, Ndamukong Suh could almost brush off talk about his penalties and fines, saying he would keep doing what was needed to help his Detroit Lions. On Thursday, Suh was publicly apologizing to his teammates after he was ejected from a loss to Green Bay.

It could be several days before Suh finds out the true cost of his third-quarter stomp in Detroit's 27-15 loss to the Packers on Thanksgiving. An NFL spokesman said Friday that plays from Week 12 looked at for potential discipline won't be reviewed until all games are completed. Detroit coach Jim Schwartz was curt after Thursday's defeat when asked if he was worried about a possible suspension.

"I'm worried about losing this game," Schwartz said.

Suh was dismissed after tangling with Packers offensive lineman Evan Dietrich-Smith. After being pushed off Dietrich-Smith, Suh stepped down hard with his right foot, appearing to make contact with Dietrich-Smith's right arm. Suh said he was trying to keep his balance while freeing himself from the brief scuffle. He apologized to teammates, coaches and fans for "allowing the refs to have an opportunity to take me out of this game," but he insisted he didn't intentionally step on anyone. "People are going to have their own opinions — that's fine," he said. "The only (people) that I really care about are my teammates, my true fans and my coaches and their opinions, and that's where it lies. And honestly, the most important person in this whole thing that I have to deal with is the man upstairs."



This Dec. 12, 2010 file photo shows Detroit Lions defensive tackle Sammie Lee Hill (91), Detroit Lions defensive tackle Andre Fluellen (96) and Detroit Lions defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh (90) sacking Green Bay Packers quarterback Matt Flynn (10) in the second half of an NFL football game in Detroit.

Associated Press

In less than two seasons as a pro, Suh has established himself as one of the game's strongest and most athletic defensive linemen, but he's also received his share of fines.

Suh requested and received a meeting earlier this month with Commissioner Roger Goodell to discuss his play. He said that dialogue was helpful, but

now the league will have to decide whether more discipline is merited after he was ejected on national television.

New York Jets coach Rex Ryan came up with one tongue-in-cheek solution Friday. "I'll be honest with you, I think the young man, he should be released ... and come to the Jets," Ryan joked. □

as a team went out there and really wanted to win for him."

Baltimore broke a 6-6 tie with a 76-yard, 16-play drive that lasted more than 7½ minutes and ended with an 8-yard touchdown pass from Joe Flacco to tight end Dennis Pitta with 14:56 left. Flacco went 4 for 4 for 34 yards and a touchdown on third down during the drive.

"When you have that kind of game plan — your line being so efficient on third downs — you have to come through," Flacco said.

Billy Cundiff wrapped up the scoring with his third field goal, a 39-yarder with 4:16 remaining.

In a game dominated by both defenses, Flacco finished 15 for 23 for 161 yards and Ray Rice ran for 59 yards on 21 carries.

The 49ers began the third quarter with a 13-play drive that lasted 7½ minutes and produced a 52-yard field goal by David Akers for a 6-6 tie.

The key play was an 18-yard completion from Smith to Michael Crabtree on a third-and-17 from the San Francisco 26.

The Ravens responded with their lone touchdown drive of the game.

Baltimore sacked Smith four times in the first half and picked off a pass in taking a 6-3 lead.

The Ravens took the opening kickoff and moved 55 yards — 38 of them on a pair of Flacco-to-Anquan Boldin completions — before Cundiff kicked a 39-yard field goal.

Late in the first quarter, a 20-yard completion from Smith to tight end Vernon Davis set up a 45-yard field goal by Akers.

The 49ers blew a chance to take the lead when Frank Gore was penalized for a chop block on a 75-yard touchdown pass from Smith to Ted Ginn, who got behind Cary Williams deep down the middle.

Neither team had much luck moving the ball until San Francisco's Tarell Brown was called for pass interference on a long pass to Torrey Smith. □

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Oilers break long drought with win at Wild

ST. PAUL, Minnesota (AP)

— Ryan Nugent-Hopkins scored twice to help Edmonton notch its first win at Minnesota in 18 attempts, as the Oilers won 5-2 on Friday to close within three points of the NHL Northwest Division-leading Wild. Ryan Smyth had a goal and two assists while Taylor Hall and Shawn Horcoff also scored for Edmonton, which last won at Minnesota in the 2006-07 season. Devin Setoguchi and Pierre-Marc Bouchard scored for the Wild, who lost for the first time in six games. Minnesota entered the game with a league-best 29 points.

*RED WINGS 3, BRUINS 2, SO

In Boston, Pavel Datsyuk and Todd Bertuzzi scored in the shootout to lift Detroit over Boston, snapping the Bruins' 10-game winning streak. Datsyuk and Valtteri Filppula scored in regulation to help the Red Wings win their fourth straight. Daniel Paille and Patrice Bergeron had Boston's regulation goals. Nathan Hor-

ton scored in the shootout for the Bruins, who hadn't lost for four weeks.

*FLYERS 3, CANADIENS 1

In Philadelphia, Claude Giroux scored twice to lift Philadelphia over Montreal. Jakub Voracek also scored for Philadelphia, which got all of its goals in the second period. Backup goalie Sergei Bobrovsky made 23 saves for the Flyers and improved to 5-1-1. Giroux now has 29 points (13 goals, 16 assists) this season. He entered the game second in the league behind Toronto's Phil Kessel. Petteri Nokelainen scored for the Canadiens.

*RANGERS 6, CAPITALS 3

In Washington, Ruslan Fedotenko scored twice and Ryan Callahan had three assists as New York set a season high for goals in a win over erratic Washington. After a scoreless first period, the Rangers scored three times in a 4:18 span in the second. Marian Gaborik scored his 10th goal of the season to give New York a 1-0 lead.



Minnesota Wild's Clayton Stoner, left, checks Edmonton Oilers' Ryan Smyth, right, during the second period of an NHL hockey game Friday, Nov. 25, 2011, in St. Paul, Minn. Edmonton won 5-2.

Associated Press

Artem Anisimov and Brad Richards had a goal and an assist each.

Washington's Alex Ovechkin broke a six-game skid without a goal with his eighth of the season — his first at home. It came in the third period, with the Cap-

tals trailing 5-2.

*BLACKHAWKS 6, DUCKS 5

In Anaheim, Patrick Sharp scored the tying and go-ahead goals in a 2:01 span early in the third period to complete his second career hat trick, and Chicago rallied for a victory over

founding Anaheim. Blackhawks captain Jonathan Toews had two goals and three assists, helping Chicago end a three-game skid and send the demoralized Ducks to their sixth straight loss. Dave Bolland also scored for the Blackhawks.

Anaheim's Bobby Ryan, playing despite a bruised hip, scored twice to end an eight-game goal drought. Teemu Selanne had a power-play goal and an assist, and Andrew Cogliano and Corey Perry also scored for the Ducks.

*DEVILS 1, ISLANDERS 0

In Uniondale, New York, Petr Sykora scored the sole goal and Johan Hedberg made 23 saves to earn his second shutout of the season and the 19th of his NHL career, leading New Jersey over New York. Sykora scored with a snap shot during a power play with 5:47 remaining in the second period. The Islanders have lost four in a row, being outscored 16-3 over that stretch. □

COLLEGE ROUNDUP

Continued from Page 17

Mathieu, who was playing safety instead of cornerback much of the game because of Eric Reid's injury the previous week, forced two turnovers with strips, one of which he recovered. He now has six forced fumbles this season. His fifth was a strip of running back Dennis Johnson in LSU territory late in the first half. That set up a touchdown drive that put the Tigers ahead to stay.

LSU trailed 14-7 when Mathieu fielded Dylan Breeding's punt at his own 8-yard line, started left,

made a hard cut straight up field, then angled left again to break into the clear. It was Mathieu's third touchdown of the season, his second on special teams. LSU's defense sacked Wilson five times (twice by Barkevious Mingo) and intercepted him once, with Morris Claiborne making his team-leading fifth pickoff of the season. Wilson completed 14 of 22 passes for 207 yards, with 60 yards on a short pass that Cobi Hamilton turned into a long gain. The play put Arkansas in position to tie the game at 21, but LSU's

defense forced a field goal that made it 21-17, and the Razorbacks never got closer than that again.

Jefferson was 18 of 29 for 208 yards and one touchdown, a 9-yard pass to Russell Shepard that gave LSU the lead for good at with 59 seconds left in the first half. Hilliard finished with a career-high 102 yards rushing on 19 carries, while Michael Ford rushed 11 times for 96 yards.

*No. 8 HOUSTON 48, TULSA 16

In Tulsa, Case Keenum threw for 457 yards and five touchdowns as Houston beat Tulsa and earned a spot in the Conference USA championship game. Patrick Edwards had 181



LSU running back Kenny Hilliard (27) dives into the end zone for a touchdown against Arkansas during the second quarter of an NCAA college football game in Baton Rouge, La., Friday, Nov. 25, 2011.

Associated Press

yards receiving and four scores for the Cougars, who set a school season record by winning their 12th game.

The 12 straight wins also match the school's longest winning streak, set over the 1990 and '91 seasons. □

Lower birth rates for young women tied to economy

ATLANTA (AP) — The economy may well be the best form of birth control. U.S. births dropped for the third straight year — especially for young mothers — and experts think money worries are the reason. A federal report released Thursday showed declines in the birth rate for all races and most age groups. Teens and women in their early 20s had the most dramatic dip, to the lowest rates since record-keeping began in the 1940s. Also, the rate of cesarean sections stopped going up for the first time since 1996.

Experts suspected the economy drove down birth rates in 2008 and 2009 as women put off having children. With the 2010 figures, suspicion has turned into certainty.

"I don't think there's any doubt now that it was the recession. It could not be anything else," said Carl Haub, a demographer with the Population Reference Bureau, a Washington, D.C.-based research organization.

He was not involved in the new report.



U.S. births hit an all-time high in 2007, at more than 4.3 million. Over the next two years, the number dropped to about 4.2 million and then about 4.1 million.

Last year, it was down to just over 4 million, according to the new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For teens, birth rates dropped 9 percent from 2009. For women in their

early 20s, they fell 6 percent. For unmarried mothers, the drop was 4 percent. Experts believe the downward trend is tied to the economy, which officially was in a recession from December 2007 until June 2009 and remains weak.

The theory is that women with money worries — especially younger women — feel they can't afford to start a family or add to it. That's true of Mary Garrick, 27, an advertising executive in Columbus, Ohio. She and her husband, David, married in 2008 and hoped to start having children quickly, in part because men in his family have died in their 40s. But David, 33, was laid off that year from his nursing job and again last year.

He's working again, but worries about the economy linger. "It kind of made us cautious about life decisions, like having a family. It's definitely something that affected us," she said. Kristi Elsberry, a married 27-year-old mother of two, had a tubal ligation in 2009 after she had trouble finding a job and she and her husband grew worried about the financial burden of any additional children.

"Kids are so expensive, especially in this day and age. And neither of us think anything's going to get better," said Elsberry, of Leland, N.C.

Many of the report's findings are part of a trend and not surprising. There was a continued decline in the percentage of pre-mature births at less than 37 weeks gestation. And — as in years past — birth rates fell in younger women but rose a little in women 40 and older, who face a closing biological window for having children and may be more worried about that than the economy. But a few of the findings did startle experts.

One involved a statistic called the total fertility rate. In essence, it tells how many children a woman can be expected to have if current birth rates continue. That figure was 1.9 children last year. In most years, it's more like 2.1. □

Donald Berwick resigning as Medicare, Medicaid Chief

ROBERT PEAR

© 2011 New York Times

WASHINGTON — Dr. Donald M. Berwick, the official in charge of Medicare and Medicaid, who became a symbol of all that Republicans dislike in President Barack Obama's health care policies, said on Wednesday that he was resigning.

His temporary recess appointment was due to expire at the end of the year. He will step down at the end of next week.

Obama first nominated Berwick in April 2010, but he never received a Senate confirmation hearing. More than 40 Senate Republicans urged the White House to withdraw the nomination last spring, and many vowed to block confirmation.

White House officials and Democrats in Congress often praised Berwick, but did not make aggressive efforts to help him win confirmation.

Obama said he would nominate Berwick's prin-



Dr. Donald Berwick, the Medicare administrator, testifies before the Senate Finance Committee at the U.S. Capitol in Washington. Berwick, President Obama's appointee to run the program, plans to resign on Dec. 2, 2011, from the post in face of opposition from Republicans in the Senate who refused to make his assignment permanent.

(Drew Angerer/The New York Times)

cipal deputy, Marilyn B. Tavenner, to succeed him as administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Tavenner, the secretary of the Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources when Tim Kaine was governor, is more of a manager and less of a visionary than Berwick, who has been working for more than two decades to transform the health care system and raise the quality of

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AT&T, Telekom to press ahead with T-Mobile deal

BERLIN (AP) — Deutsche Telekom and AT&T vowed Thursday to press ahead with the planned sale of the German company's T-Mobile USA unit to the U.S. cell phone operator despite concerns raised by American authorities.

The two companies said they had withdrawn applications to the Federal Communications Commission regarding the merger and intended to seek its approval again "as soon as practical."

They took the step "to facilitate the consideration of all options at the FCC and to focus their continuing efforts on obtaining antitrust clearance for the transaction from the Department of Justice," which filed a lawsuit in August to stop the deal, AT&T said in a statement.

"Both companies are continuing to pursue the sale of T-Mobile USA to AT&T," Deutsche Telekom stressed. Both U.S. agencies worry that the deal would ham-

per competition and lead to higher prices for consumers.

Deutsche Telekom AG and AT&T Inc. made their move after the chairman of the FCC earlier this week came out against the merger.

Julius Genachowski made his position known in a document he circulated to fellow commissioners Tuesday.

He recommended sending AT&T's proposed \$39 billion takeover of T-Mobile to an administrative law judge for review and a hearing. That's what the FCC does when it opposes a merger. As a result of the FCC's move,

AT&T said it plans to take a pretax accounting charge of \$4 billion in the current quarter to reflect the break-up fees that would be due to Deutsche Telekom if regulators block the deal.

In Frankfurt, Deutsche Telekom shares were down 0.5 percent by Thursday afternoon at €8.69 (\$11.67), while the DAX index of



In this March 20, 2011 file photo combo, shows the logos of the communications company AT & T and Deutsche Telekom. AT&T said Friday, Nov. 25, 2011, it is budgeting for \$4 billion in break-up fees if its attempted purchase with T-Mobile USA falls apart.

Associated Press

blue-chip stocks was slightly higher overall.

The proposed deal, announced in March, would vault the combination of America's No. 2 carrier AT&T and No. 4 T-Mobile into the top spot ahead of

Verizon.

Dallas-based AT&T has about 101 million wireless subscribers.

T-Mobile, the Bellevue, Washington-based subsidiary of Deutsche Telekom AG of Germany, has 34 mil-

lion.

Verizon Wireless, a joint venture between Verizon Communications Inc. and Vodafone Group PLC, has about 108 million, while Sprint Nextel Corp. has 53 million. □

Qualcomm challenges LCDs through new e-reader

SAM KIM
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A new electronic display is poised to challenge power-hungry LCDs after U.S. mobile chip maker Qualcomm Inc. teamed up with a South Korean bookseller to introduce a new e-reader. The "Kyobo eReader" was unveiled this week in Seoul and will reach South Korean consumers as early as Dec. 1, Kyobo Book Centre officials said Thursday.

The e-reader features Qualcomm's 1.0 GHz "Snapdragon" processor, a custom Kyobo application based on Android and a 5.7 inch "XGA" mirasol display.

The mirasol display uses ambient light instead of its own in much the same way that a peacock's plumage gets its scintillating hues. Qualcomm's mirasols have already been used in a few Chinese and South Korean phones, and in an MP3

player on the U.S. market. The display contains tiny mirrors that consume power only when they're moving, easing battery drain. Mirasol displays also quickly change from one image to the next and show video. The global market for e-readers is dominated by bright LCDs and grayscale "e-ink" screens. LCDs consume relatively more battery power while e-ink screens are slow to refresh. The introduction of the e-

reader jointly developed by Qualcomm and Kyobo signals increasing competition in the global market for tablets.

U.S. online retailer Amazon.com Inc. and bookseller Barnes & Noble Inc. have recently released tablets of their own, Kindle Fire and Nook Tablet, and are challenging Apple's iPad in pricing.

Qualcomm CEO Paul Jacobs noted South Koreans' near-100 percent literacy

rate and digital reading skills during a launching ceremony in Seoul on Tuesday, according to the San Diego-based company. Fifteen-year-old South Koreans scored highest in their ability to absorb information from digital devices, according to a 2009 study by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Over 80 percent of households in South Korea have broadband Internet access. □

Italy's borrowing rates skyrocket, Monti scrambles

COLLEEN BARRY

FRANCES D'EMILIO

ROME (AP) — A week into his new job, Premier Mario Monti is running out of time to reassure nervous investors that his government has a strategy to deal with Italy's crippling debts.

The nation's borrowing rates skyrocketed Friday after a grim set of bond auctions, with a new auction looming Tuesday. Another borrowing debacle could ratchet up fears that Italy has entered a debt spiral driving it toward bankruptcy and the 17-nation eurozone into its most acute crisis yet.

Monti's government of so-called "technocrats" is battling to convince investors that it has a successful strategy to reduce the country's €1.9 trillion (\$2.6 trillion) debt. But Friday's dismal bond auction results for the eurozone's third largest economy temporarily battered Europe's stock markets.

The auction outcome also is likely to fuel calls for European Union officials to do more to jump-start economic growth and the European Central Bank to use more firepower to cool down a rapidly escalating debt crisis.

"We still haven't found a response that reassures investors," said Jose Manuel Barroso, head of the European Commission. "As long as we're unable to do that, we'll have very serious problems and discussions in Europe." He spoke during a visit to Portugal, which, like eurozone members Greece and Ireland, has taken an EU bailout to avoid bankruptcy. Stephen Lewis, an analyst at Monument Securities, agreed with that outlook. "The signs are that the euro will need a highly skilled financial engineer at the controls if it is to withstand the strains it is likely to face in the five remaining weeks of this year," he said. Driving market fears is the knowledge that Italy is too big for Europe to bail out. Given the size of its debts — Italy must refinance €200 billion by the end of April alone — the government is depending on investors for

money. But when borrowing rates get too high that can fuel a potentially devastating debt spiral which could bankrupt the country.

Friday's auctions showed that investors see Italian debt as increasingly risky. The country had to pay an average yield of 7.814 percent to raise €2 billion (\$2.7 billion) in two-year bills — sharply higher than the 4.628 percent it paid in the previous auction in

he emerged to praise new economic reforms that are "going in the right direction," such as liberalizing professions, encouraging employers to hire, and making it easier for them to transfer workers. But Rehn also said he expects more "bold measures" to follow. Italy must adopt "a comprehensive and wide-ranging package of reforms to kick-start growth and offer young people not only

accommodating toward Monti, a former European Union competition commission with a reputation for taking tough stands.

"Mario Monti has failed so far to impress bond markets he has the power and authority to do what is required," said Louise Cooper, a markets analyst at BGC Partners.

Monti was appointed to replace premier Silvio Berlusconi, whose conservative coalition squabbled for



European Commissioner for the Economy Olli Rehn, left, is greeted by Italian Premier Mario Monti as they meet at Chigi's Premier palace in Rome, Friday, Nov. 25, 2011. Italy had to pay sharply higher borrowing rates to entice investors to part with their cash during a couple of auctions Friday, in an acute sign that Europe's crippling debt crisis is laying siege to the euro zone's third-largest economy. The auction results are another sign that the country's new technocratic government faces a big battle to convince that it has a strategy to get a grip on the country's massive debts.

(AP Photo/Andrew Medichini)

October. And even raising €8 billion (\$10.7 billion) for six months proved exorbitantly expensive, as the yield for that spiked to 6.504 percent, nearly double the 3.535 percent rate last month.

Following the grim auction news, Italy's borrowing rates in the markets shot higher, with the 10-year yield spiking 0.34 percentage point to 7.30 percent — above the 7 percent threshold that forced other euro nations into bailouts. Solid returns on Wall Street helped European markets recover from earlier losses Friday fueled by fears over Italy.

The EU monetary chief, Olli Rehn, also tried to reassure markets. After meeting in Rome with Monti on Friday,

more jobs but also better jobs," the monetary affairs commissioner said.

Rehn was in Rome to monitor Italy's compliance with promises to liberalize its labor market, reduce the bloated public sector and sell some state assets.

Analyst Raj Badiani, an economist at IHS Global Insight in London, said Monti must deliver more.

"I don't think the markets have turned against Monti" and his "first stab" at promised reforms, Badiani said. "However, I argue that he will need to consider more draconian labor market reforms to reverse Italy's woeful productivity performance since the adoption of the euro."

Other analysts were less

months over measures such as pension reform, which were urgently sought by EU and European Central Bank officials.

But Monti has no political party behind him, meaning he is at the mercy of lawmakers from Italy's infamously bickering parties to back him on painful doses of austerity, with the next election looming in early 2013. Italy was not the only euro-using country to have a disappointing auction this week.

Even Germany — the region's strongest economy and the main funder of eurozone bailouts — suffered a shock Wednesday when it failed to raise all the money it sought, its worst auction result in decades. □

Oil near \$97 a barrel: AP

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil rose Friday after a see-sawing session in post-holiday, low-volume trading, but was down slightly for the week. The benchmark for crude oil in the U.S. rose 60 cents to settle at \$96.77 a barrel. It dropped \$1.84 on Wednesday, before markets in the U.S. were closed for the Thanksgiving holiday. On the week, however, oil lost 0.7 percent. Oil had fallen earlier as Europe's debt crisis continues to undermine confidence the continent will avoid recession next year. In London, Brent crude for January delivery fell \$1.38 to settle at \$106.40 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

Investor concern that fiscal austerity measures aimed at lowering Europe's debt levels will hurt global economic growth and oil demand has helped pull crude back from above \$103 last week.

Uncertainty about contagion spreading from Greece to Portugal, Italy, Spain and Ireland has begun to undermine confidence in Germany and France.

The yield on Germany's 10-year bond rose above the 10-year UK government bond for the first time since 2009. And on Friday Standard & Poor's downgraded Belgium's financial standing, citing the country's government stalemate and the looming European recession.

"The eurozone sovereign crisis is starting to threaten the bond markets of even the most solid European economy — Germany," Barclays Capital said in a report. In the U.S., meanwhile, the average price for a gallon of gas has fallen to \$3.31 (87 cents a liter) from \$3.38 in just a week.

The discount is an even heftier 20 cents a gallon (3.8 liters) compared with two months ago.

In fact, American shoppers driving from store to store on the first weekend of the holiday shopping season are paying some of the lowest prices for gas since late winter. □

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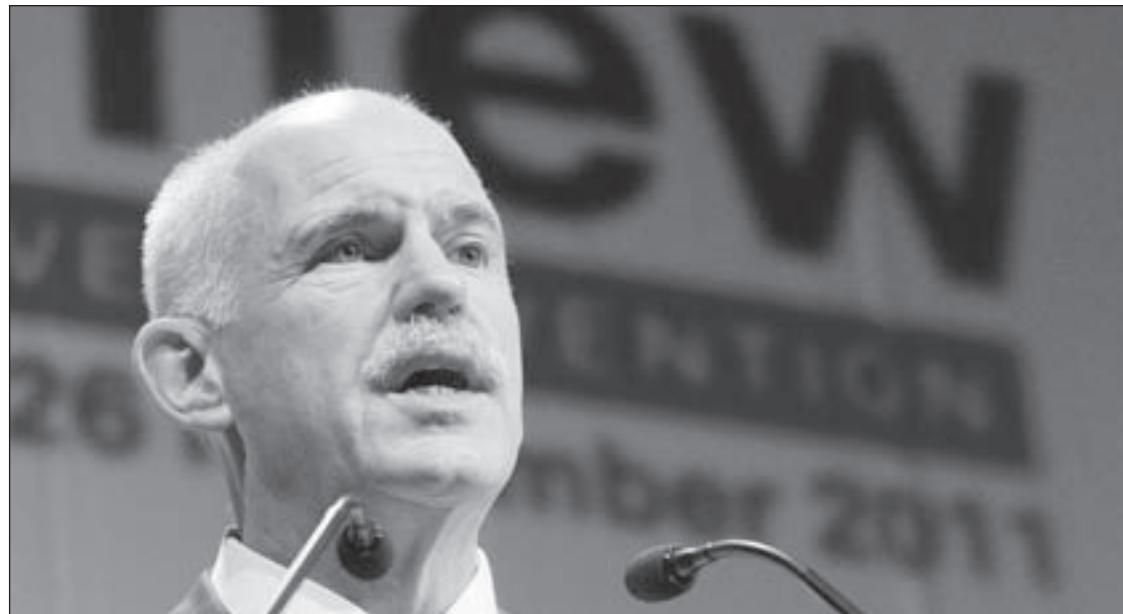
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S&P's lowers sovereign credit rating on Belgium



Former Greek Prime Minister George Papandreu addresses the audience during the Progressive Conference of the European Socialists party in Brussels, Friday, Nov. 25, 2011.

(AP Photo/Yves Logge)

RAF CASERT

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Standard & Poor's downgraded Belgium's financial standing Friday, citing the country's government stalemate and a looming European recession. Spurred on by the ratings agency's cut, six leading parties hurriedly resumed talks to agree on a 2012 budget to contain Belgium's high debt and deficit, two more reasons why the country has come under increasing pressure from financial markets this week.

In a sign that financial contagion is spreading across Europe, the agency cut Belgium's credit rating from AA+ to AA, a move coming two days after Germany fared surprisingly poorly at a bond auction.

Belgium has been without a permanent government for 530 days, as a series of

negotiators has struggled without success to bridge the country's divide between its French and Dutch speakers.

"In our opinion, protracted political uncertainty remains a risk to its creditworthiness," the ratings agency said. Caretaker Prime Minister Yves Leterme said "we really need strong signals now" from the six political parties trying to resolve the 2012 budget. He said the six parties needed a deal "tonight, the coming days — but preferably before we hit the market again" Monday.

After negotiators reached a constitutional deal two month ago giving regions more autonomy, talks are now stuck over how much austerity measures and increased taxes should be part of an €11 billion (\$14.8 billion) package to keep spending within limits.

"Now the time has really come for parties to take up their responsibility and form a government with full powers," Leterme said. In a statement, Standard & Poor's said Leterme's caretaker government "lacks a mandate to implement deeper fiscal and structural reforms." The country's yields on long-term bonds are closing in on 6 percent — getting closer to the 7 percent financial danger zone that has pushed other European nations into international bailouts. "If we have to go to the markets next week to refinance our debt, the downgrading could make sure that we

have to pay an even higher price," Leterme said on VTM network.

Leterme aims to get the budget deficit down to 2.8 percent of gross domestic product in 2012, but the European Union is far from convinced, forecasting a wider shortfall of 4.6 percent for the country. It is also forecasting that Belgium's debt-to-GDP ratio will break through the 100 percent barrier in 2013 without big budget reforms. The record-long negotiations since the June 13, 2010, election have been hobbled by fundamental differences over Belgium's future. □

Euro falls to 7½-week low against dollar

NEW YORK (AP) — The euro fell to 7½-week low against dollar as Italian borrowing rates soared, raising fears that Europe's debt crisis is spreading to the region's larger economies.

Italy had to pay an average yield of 7.814 percent in two-year bonds, nearly double what the country had to pay a month ago. The higher rates are a sign that investors are worried the country may not be able to pay its debts.

The euro fell to \$1.3230 late Friday from \$1.3333 late Thursday. The euro fell to \$1.3211 earlier, its lowest point since Oct. 4.

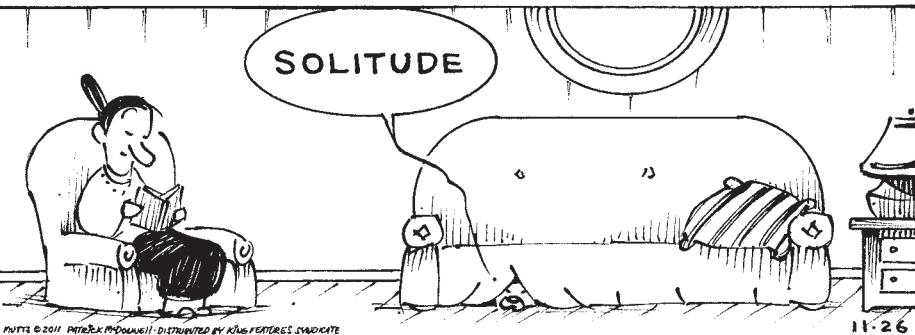
The euro has fallen about 2.2 percent this week on concerns about Europe. Those concerns escalated Wednesday after Germany said it didn't raise as much



money as hoped at a bond auction. Germany is Europe's strongest economy, and investors worried that it could be sucked into the region's growing debt crisis. The dollar was also mostly higher against other currencies. The British pound fell to

\$1.5433 from \$1.5489. The dollar rose to 77.76 Japanese yen from 77.15 yen and to 0.9318 Swiss franc from 0.9199 Swiss franc. Meanwhile, the dollar rose to 1.0503 Canadian dollar from 1.0468 Canadian dollar. □

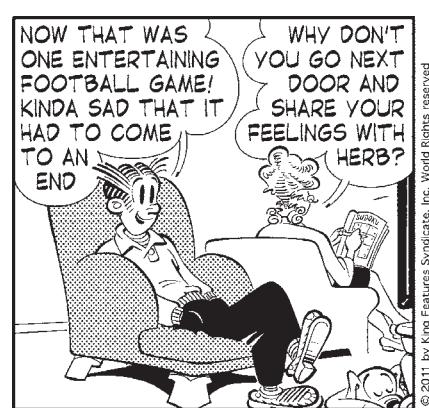
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

2	9	6										
4	6	1	8									
6	9										3	1
2										8		7
8										4		
3										6	8	
2	4											
6	5	4	1									
3	8	9										

Difficulty Level ★★★★

11/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

9	5	4	7	3	8	6	2	1				
3	8	6	1	2	4	5	7	9				
1	2	7	6	9	5	8	3	4				
4	6	1	5	8	2	3	9	7				
7	9	2	3	4	6	1	5	8				
8	3	5	9	7	1	2	4	6				
6	1	9	4	5	3	7	8	2				
2	7	3	8	1	9	4	6	5				
5	4	8	2	6	7	9	1	3				

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16			
17					18					19			
20					21				22		23		
24									25				
26	27	28								30	31	32	33
34					35				36				
37					38				39			40	
41					42			43			44		
45								46			47		
51	52	53						48	49		50		
58					59	60				61			
62					63					64			
65					66					67			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/26/11

Friday's Puzzle Solved

DIGS	BASIL	STAB
ACHE	EMOTE	CODA
NOON	NURSERYMAN	
GNU	FIST	ITEMS
LARGE	ISH	
TAIWAN	BLEEDS	
ESSAY	CALLS	EAT
ASHY	CEDES	GLUE
MEL	ALLOW	MAINE
SYMBOL	CANVAS	
AID	DODGE	
STAND	ROME	RUB
WINTER	TIME	WINE
ANTE	PANEL	ENDS
BAIL	MUDGY	EGOS

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11/26/11

- 3 Turmoils
4 ___ with, full of
5 Movie award
6 Jack or deuce
7 Actor's hint
8 Left ___; never verbalized
9 Numerical comparison
10 Deep purplish red
11 Days of ___; yesteryear
12 Twirl
13 Examination
21 Have a feast
23 Of the moon
25 Idle talk
51 A, an or the
54 Tying up
58 Glacier breakaway
59 Significant ___; special partner
61 At any time
62 Tilt
63 Blackboard
64 Seldom seen
65 Lawn trees
66 Family car
67 Winter weather
- DOWN
1 Stuff
2 Tubular pasta
- 39 ___ rummy; card game
42 Speaks evil of
44 Wheel guards
46 Hard-shelled bug
47 Religious sister
50 Blaring alarm
- 51 Competent game
52 Become dizzy
53 Mine car
54 Fraternity letter
55 Lend of tennis
56 Fiddling Roman emperor
57 Became larger
60 Owned

Today in History

The Associated Press
Today is Saturday, November 26, the 330th day of 2011. There are 35 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1095 - Pope Urban urges the faithful to wrest the Holy Land from the Muslims, heralding start of Crusades.

1580 - Peace of Fleix ends Seventh War of Religion in France.

1648 - Pope Innocent X condemns Peace of Westphalia, which ended 30 Years War one month earlier.

1716 - A lion is first exhibited in America.

1764 - Jesuit order is suppressed in France.

1789 - A day of Thanksgiving is set aside by U.S. President George Washington to observe the adoption of America's Constitution.

1812 - French army meets disaster in retreating across Russia's Beresina River.

1825 - The first U.S. college social fraternity, Kappa Alpha, is formed at Union College in Schenectady, New York.

1857 - First Australian Parliament opens in Melbourne.

1896 - Russia discloses plan to seize Constantinople if Britain intervenes in Crete.

1922 - King Tutankhamen's tomb is opened in Egypt.

1939 - Soviet Union attacks Finland leading to 105-day Winter War.

1940 - Half-million Jews of Warsaw, Poland, are ordered to live within a walled ghetto.

1942 - The film "Casablanca," starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman, has its world premiere at the Hollywood Theater in New York.

1943 - The HMT Rohna, a British transport ship carrying U.S. soldiers, is hit by a German missile off Algeria; 1,138 men are killed, including 1,015 American troops.

1949 - India adopts constitution as federal republic within British Commonwealth.

1950 - China enters the Ko-



Today is Illona Staller's birthday

rean conflict, launching a counteroffensive against soldiers from the United Nations, the United States and South Korea.

1965 - France launches its first satellite, sending a 41-kilogram (92-pound) capsule into orbit.

1967 - Death toll is put at 250 in floods in central Portugal.

1970 - A Bolivian painter, disguised as a priest, tries to kill Pope Paul VI in Manila, Philippines, but pontiff escapes injury.

1975 - A federal jury in Sacramento, California, finds Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, a follower of Charles Manson, guilty of trying to assassinate U.S. President Gerald Ford.

1978 - Muslim religious leaders and politicians seeking to topple Shah of Iran call general strike that virtually paralyzes the country.

1986 - Iranian missile slams into crowded residential district of Baghdad, Iraq, killing 48 civilians and wounding 52.

1987 - Powerful typhoon whips across Philippines, killing 270 people and damaging or destroying 14,000

homes.

1989 - El Salvador breaks relations with Nicaragua after weapons-loaded plane from that country is downed in El Salvador.

1990 - Five permanent members of U.N. Security Council agree on peace plan for Cambodia.

1991 - UNICEF says fighting and crop failures in southern Sudan have forced unprecedented exodus of 200,000 people.

1992 - An aid agency predicts disaster if the United States sends a large military force to Somalia; Britain's Queen Elizabeth II announces she would start paying taxes on her personal income and take her children off the national payroll.

1994 - A major offensive by the Russian-backed opposition fails to wrest Grozny, the capital of Chechnya from its government.

1995 - Rebel jets bomb Kabul, the Afghan capital, killing 35 people and wounding 140 others.

1996 - Supporters of President Alexander Lukashenko break away from Belarus' Parliament, setting up their own assembly.

1997 - Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein invites foreign experts to live in his "presidential palaces" to prove that he has nothing to hide. The palaces remain closed to weapons inspectors.

1999 - A Norwegian high-speed passenger ferry carrying 85 people sinks in the North Sea off western Norway, killing 16 people.

2000 - Florida certifies George W. Bush as the winner of the state's electoral votes for the U.S. presidential election. U.S. Vice Presi-

dent and Democratic rival Al Gore challenges the decision.

2001 - Former French intelligence chief General Paul Aussaressess says in testimony that the orders he issued to torture and kill prisoners during the Algerian independence war were justifiable acts of duty.

2002 - Attorney Gloria Allred asks California authorities to investigate singer Michael Jackson because of news videotape of the star holding his baby son over a fourth-floor railing at a hotel in Germany. □



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27 NOVEMBER
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Arubano
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Study: Humans were catching tuna 42K years ago

ALICIA CHANG

AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) —

Humans were expert deep-sea fishermen as far back as 42,000 years ago, hauling in tuna, sharks and barracudas, new research suggests.

Fish appeared in the human diet about 1.9 million years ago. Early catchers waded into freshwater lakes and streams without the need for boats or complex tools. It wasn't until later that humans decided to ply the ocean in search of fish. The latest evidence comes from an excavation on the southeast Asian island of East Timor where remains of tuna and other deep-water fish

were uncovered inside a cave. Using dating techniques, a team led by archaeologist Sue O'Connor of Australian National University determined the age to be 42,000 years old — making it the earliest evidence for ocean fishing.

The findings were reported in Friday's issue of the journal *Science*. Since catching tuna and marine fish requires tools and advance planning, this meant people must have developed the mental and technological know-how to exploit the sea. "It increases our insight into the developing abilities of early modern people," Eric Delson, an anthropologist at Lehman Col-



This 2005 photo provided by Sue O'Connor/Australian National University shows an excavation site showing fish bones and hooks at a cave in East Timor. New research published in the journal *Science* suggests humans were deep-sea fishing 42,000 years ago, much earlier than believed.

Associated Press

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lege of the City University of New York who had no role in the research, said in an email. Early anglers probably fashioned boats by tying logs together and used nets and sharpened pieces of wood or shells as hooks, said Kathryn Stewart, a research scientist at the Canadian Museum of Nature, who was not part of the study. □

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Pentagon visit ahead for veteran who's dance champ

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has invited soldier-turned-actor J.R. Martinez, who just won the most recent "Dancing with the Stars" competition, to the Pentagon for meeting. A Pentagon spokesman says Panetta called Martinez on Friday and told the dancing champion that he demonstrated the strength and resilience of wounded veterans.

Capt. John Kirby says Martinez credited his military training for his performance during the competition broadcast on ABC.

Kirby says details about Panetta's meeting with Martinez are being worked out.

The 28-year-old Martinez was severely burned over



War veteran and actor J.R. Martinez, winner of the "Dancing with the Stars" celebrity dance competition, appears on "Good Morning America" in New York, Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2011.

Associated Press

more than 40 percent of his body when the Humvee he was driving for the U.S. Army struck a land mine in 2003. □

George Michael treated for pneumonia, cancels tour



LONDON (AP) — George Michael has postponed all his remaining 2011 tour dates as he recovers from pneumonia, the singer's publicist said Friday.

Michael was hospitalized in Vienna, Austria earlier this week. A statement from publicist Connie Filippello said the 48-year-old former Wham! singer "is responding to treatment and slowly improving."

Michael "is ill with pneumonia and any other speculation regarding his illness is unfounded and untrue," the statement said.

Two Austrian doctors treating Michael said he had "severe community ac-

quired pneumonia," but "his condition has stabilized and he is responding to treatment." They said he needed time to regain his strength.

"From the current point of view, the time until recovery cannot be estimated, but he will not be able to perform the rest of the tour," Dr. Christoph Zielinski and Dr. Thomas Staudinger said in a statement. "Besides medical treatment, complete rest, and peace and quiet are mandatory." The singer has postponed dates in Liverpool, Sheffield, Newcastle, Glasgow, Birmingham, Manchester and London. □

So big, Performa now misses the point



Performers during a scene of "Bliss," the winner of the Performa 11 inaugural Malcolm McLaren Award, by Ragnar Kjartansson, in an undated handout photo. Performa 11, the visual art performance biennial, has come to an end, completing its sprawling three-week marathon with an award ceremony on Monday.

(Paula Court via The New York Times)

ROBERTA SMITH

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Performa 11, the visual art performance biennial, has come and gone, completing its sprawling three-week marathon with an awards ceremony Monday. It left me feeling once more grateful for its artistic largesse and revelations, if a bit more dazed and confused than usual.

Founded in 2005 by the performance-art historian turned impresario RoseLee Goldberg, Performa is by definition a mutable beast, different each time out, and each time stuffed with events of a highly diverse character. Two big questions seemed to haunt this year's version.

First, has it gotten too big? I would say yes. Goldberg has said she founded the biennial because she was tired of seeing performance art relegated to the fringe of museum biennials. And, admittedly, it was not small to begin with. But Performa, which has gone from 80 events crammed into 16 days in 2005, to 130 packed into 21 now, has gotten so large that no matter how much you prioritize and plan, much of it is marginalized because you just can't get there. The second question, more complex, is, has it lost its fo-

cus on performance art, or more precisely on "visual art performance"? The answer may depend on which of the several possible Performas you saw. I stuck to the commissions, seeing 12 of the 13 events that Performa produced on its own or in collaboration with other organizations, figuring they best represented its ambition and character. Going by these, I would say that a recommitment to performance art is in order, along with an added effort to find newness in the genre. There were only two truly stand-out events this year: Liz Magic Laser's "I Feel Your Pain" and Ragnar Kjartansson's "Bliss," the winner of Performa's inaugural \$10,000 Malcolm McLaren Award. There should have been more.

According to its news release, the "research theme" – whatever that means – of Performa 11 was "Language, Translation and Misinformation." In this spirit, commissions made use of works by Samuel Beckett, Tennessee Williams, Ingmar Bergman and Mozart. But more plebian material was also used: television interviews with politicians, the intimate Internet sexting between a pair of online-only lovers, and the stories implied by a

series of snapshots of weddings discovered on a cell-phone in a New York taxi. The goal, according to that release, was to "investigate the use of language in the field of performance by visual artists versus that of theater actors." This seems a little redundant, given that Performa takes place in New York and is surrounded by theaters full of actors; the contrast is already there. The phrase's blandness suggests something Goldberg made up when she realized how many of her main events were tending toward conventional theater.

In retrospect, the words reflect both the problems that plagued Performa 11 and its strange contrapuntal energy. Namely its commissions, at least, formed a kind of argument about what is and is not performance art, or, more specifically, what constitutes a particular kind of performance art that is implied by the term "visual art performance."

The argument was in many ways between events in which actors followed scripts, and events in which things proceeded in a much less predictable, more open-ended fashion. In these instances there was little if any theatrical illusion

Laura Osnes is a shooting star in 'Bonnie & Clyde'

MARK KENNEDY

AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Laura Osnes is still in that pinch-me-I-must-be-dreaming phase.

The 25-year-old actress is now starring in her third Broadway show, and originating a role for the first time, only four years after landing in New York by way of an unlikely vehicle: a reality TV show.

"I think if I had written it out myself, I wouldn't have planned it as good as this. In my wildest dreams, I never would have imagined all of the amazing opportunities that I've had," Osnes says during a break in rehearsals for "Bonnie & Clyde," which has music by Frank Wildhorn.

Thanks to talent and some good luck, Osnes has speedily gone from performing "Grease" in dinner theater in Minneapolis to doing the same musical on Broadway after winning NBC's "Grease: You're the One That I Want" in 2007. After that, she replaced Kelli O'Hara in "South Pacific"



In this Nov. 23, 2011 photo, actress Laura Osnes poses for a portrait in her dressing room at the Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre before a performance of "Bonnie & Clyde", in New York.

Associated Press

ic" and got the chance to sing and dance alongside her hero Sutton Foster in "Anything Goes." Now her two-and-a-half-year investment in bank robber Bonnie is about to pay off. "This is my first originating role so it's just been so exciting to be part of this

process pretty much from the ground up," she says. "It was kind of magical how the whole thing happened."

Osnes initially auditioned for an earlier Wildhorn musical — "Wonderland," an updated telling of "Alice in Wonderland." She lost the

lead role of Alice to Janet Dascal but Wildhorn, the composer of such Broadway shows as "Jekyll & Hyde" and "The Scarlet Pimpernel," was impressed. "He said, 'I think you're too young for Alice, but I'm working on this other musical that I think you might

actually be really great for. It's a new musical about Bonnie and Clyde.'"

It turned out that even in defeat, Osnes had dodged a bullet: "Wonderland" was savaged by critics by the time it arrived on Broadway, and Osnes realizes that some people will be leery of Wildhorn's new work.

"If people come in skeptical, fine by us. Because we'll blow you away," she says. "It's Frank's best work ever. I'm a big fan of his and I love singing every song. I never get sick of them. I've been singing the songs for three years and it's still magic."

Osnes has been with "Bonnie & Clyde" from the very beginning, playing Bonnie as it matured during monthlong stints at the La Jolla Playhouse in southern California in the autumn of 2009 and then at the Asolo Repertory Theatre in Sarasota, Florida, a year later. In between those two stretches, she was tempted by another offer. She was in the final running for a spot in "Bring It On: The Musical," a show loosely based on the popular 2000 movie about competing high school cheerleading teams that starred Kirsten Dunst, Gabrielle Union and Eliza Dushku, and produced a couple of sequels.

Osnes had to choose — gun-toting Bonnie or a pom-pom wielding cheerleader? A proven brand name or an original musical? Which was worthier of her investment in time? And which had the best shot of being a success or making it to Broadway?

"I just have learned in this business that you really have to follow your heart. That's what I did," she says, pointing to the "Bonnie & Clyde" script. "My heart was attached already to the people and the project."

Christopher Ashley, the artistic director of the La Jolla Playhouse and who directed the Broadway shows "Memphis" and "Xanadu," is glad Osnes stuck with Bonnie. She even worked with the creative team to deepen the character. □

Stockard Channing eyes 'Other Desert' return

MARK KENNEDY

AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stockard Channing plans to return to a Broadway stage Friday night for the first time since undergoing arthroscopic surgery on her right knee just five days ago.

The 67-year-old Tony Award-winning actress said in an interview at the Booth Theatre a few hours before Friday's show time that she hopes she can reclaim her part in "Other Desert Cities" despite swelling and pain. Recovery time after surgery for such injuries is usually at least two weeks — and that's for professional athletes. "Obviously, I'm not out here playing football. I'm just out here walking around in high heels. So blame it on the Manolos," Channing joked.

Dressed in a black shirt and sneakers, the actress rolled up the leg on her sweat pants to reveal two small bandages around her right knee and very little swelling.

She's been using crutches and a wheelchair.

"This is maybe stupid. I don't know. But if it doesn't blow up or get painful, I'm doing the right thing," she says. "I think I will be OK. I hope it will be OK."

The Jon Robin Baitz play, about a wealthy, dysfunctional family wrestling with a deep secret, opened Nov. 3. Channing felt her knee collapse backstage after the Nov. 18 evening show and missed seven performances. She underwent surgery on Monday afternoon and is taking an anti-inflammatory drug. She is also routinely icing the injury and sitting with her legs elevated. Producers are trying to accommodate Channing by supplying her with shoes with a smaller heel on stage, slightly changing some scenes so she won't have to move around as much, and ferrying her between acts in a wheelchair. She hopes those measures will only last a few weeks



In this June 7, 2009, file photo, actress Stockard Channing arrives at the 63rd Annual Tony Awards in New York.

Associated Press

but expects to miss some matinees because she doesn't want to perform twice in one day.

The play also features Stacy Keach, Judith Light, Thomas Sadoski and Rachel Griffiths in her Broadway debut. It is directed by Joe Mantello. During the performances she missed, Channing was replaced by an understudy. □

Channing has been a fixture on stage, TV and film since making her debut as an undergrad in a Harvard University production of "The Threepenny Opera." She first hit Broadway in 1971 in "Two Gentlemen of Verona" and her early film credits include the 1978 movie version of "Grease," in which she played bad girl Rizzo.

She won the 1985 Tony for her role in "Joe Egg," and went on to act in "Six Degrees of Separation" on stage and in the film version, which earned her an Oscar nomination. She is perhaps best known for her role as the first lady on the former NBC series "The West Wing," where she spent time in a wheelchair after breaking her left ankle.

She was last on Broadway in the 2008 update of the Richard Rogers-Lorenz Hart musical "Pal Joey" and sang a beautiful rendition of "Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered." □

Counting really small blessings



GAIL COLLINS

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This year I am giving thanks for the Republican presidential debates.

Didn't see that one coming, did you?

I have a real tolerance for boring television, having watched at least two series now on the air about people who bid on abandoned storage lockers, as well as several segments of the show about extreme coupon-collecting. So the debates are right up my alley. After the 10th or 11th episode, you get a feeling of up-close interaction previously reserved for people who live in Iowa and New Hampshire, where voters are so entitled that they find it hard to support anybody who hasn't been to the house for dinner, or possibly a sleepover.

You come to know everybody's special gimmicks. Newt Gingrich will say something snotty to the moderators to show he hates the news media. Whenever Rick Perry gets lost in the verbal weeds, he has taken to demanding that Congress be made part time. Michele Bachmann points out that she's had 23 foster children. Mitt Romney's special thing is to swear that, unlike President Barack Obama, he will not apologize for the United States. Which Obama never did.

Meanwhile, Romney's campaign was running an ad in New Hampshire that purported to show Obama in 2008, saying: "If we keep talking about the economy, we're going to lose." Which was actually Obama quoting John McCain's campaign. Romney has a long and well-documented history of changing his positions. This time around, he is apparently also planning to just make things up. But about the debates. My favorite this week was the Thanksgiving Family Forum, in which everybody in the race who isn't a Mormon went to Iowa to compete for the love of the Christian right. This was the one in which

Rick Perry assured the audience that because of his strong anti-abortion stance he would immediately end the policy of sending China "billions of dollars" in U.S. foreign aid.

Who knew? Truly, it was the most interesting TV moment since I watched somebody bid way too much money for an abandoned storage locker containing fake leather furniture and a portrait of cats with big eyes. The CNN national security debate had fewer cheap thrills, although it was fun hearing Herman Cain call Wolf Blitzer "Blitz." Also there was Michele Bachmann's description of her role in the debt-ceiling crisis. ("And my voice said this: I said it's time for us to draw a line in the sand.") It seemed to suggest she had come to see herself in the third person. Or maybe as an oracle. Or a ventriloquist.

These are the moments that get you through the long, hard periods where everybody but Ron Paul is competing to see who can promise to do the toughest things to Iran. (Let Israel bomb them! Bomb them ourselves! Let's assassinate some nuclear scientists!)

This week's biggest drama was the Newt Has a Heart Moment, when Gingrich said he believed an undocumented immigrant who had "been here 25 years and you got three kids and two grandkids, you've been paying taxes and obeying the law, you belong to a local church" should be given some avenue to legal status. Bachmann instantly and repeatedly claimed Newt was talking about "11 million people," which sounds like one heck of a lot of 25-year-resident grandparents.

"Amnesty is a magnet," said Romney, who has spent two presidential campaigns branding his opponents as amnesty-givers.

You could see Perry's face light up. This was so clearly his moment to point out that Mitt Romney used to have illegal immigrants mowing his lawn.

"Here we go again, Mitt. You and I, standing by each other again, and you used the words about the magnets," Perry started. But you could almost hear the alarms going off. The candidates have been urged/bullied/blackmailed into avoiding personal attacks on one another.

"And that's one of the things that we obviously have to do, is to stop those magnets of – for individuals to come in here," Perry concluded, retreating fast. Nobody even noticed, since he talks like that even when he is saying what he intended to say. This is totally unfair to the loyal debate watchers. □



We are the 99.9 percent



PAUL KRUGMAN

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"We are the 99 percent" is a great slogan. It correctly defines the issue as being the middle class versus the elite (as opposed to the middle class versus the poor). And it also gets past the common but wrong establishment notion that rising inequality is mainly about the well educated doing better than the less educated; the big winners in this new Gilded Age have been a handful of very wealthy people, not college graduates in general.

If anything, however, the 99 percent slogan aims too low. A large fraction of the top 1 percent's gains have actually gone to an even smaller group, the top 0.1 percent – the richest one-thousandth of the population. And while Democrats, by and large, want that super-elite to make at least some contribution to long-term deficit reduction, Republicans want to cut the super-elite's taxes even as they slash Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid in the name of fiscal discipline.

Before I get to those policy disputes, here are a few numbers. The recent Congressional Budget Office report on inequality didn't look inside the top 1 percent, but an earlier report, which only went up to 2005, did. According to that report, between 1979 and 2005 the inflation-adjusted, after-tax income

of Americans in the middle of the income distribution rose 21 percent. The equivalent number for the richest 0.1 percent rose 400 percent.

For the most part, these huge gains reflected a dramatic rise in the super-elite's share of pretax income. But there were also large tax cuts favoring the wealthy. In particular, taxes on capital gains are much lower than they were in 1979 – and the richest one-thousandth of Americans account for half of all income from capital gains.

Given this history, why do Republicans advocate further tax cuts for the very rich even as they warn about deficits and demand drastic cuts in social insurance programs?

Well, aside from shouts of "class warfare!" whenever such questions are raised, the usual answer is that the super-elite are "job creators" – that is, that they make a special contribution to the economy. So what you need to know is that this is bad economics. In fact, it would be bad economics even if America had the idealized, perfect market economy of conservative fantasies.

After all, in an idealized market economy each worker would be paid exactly what he or she contributes to the economy by choosing to work, no more and no less. And this would be equally true for workers making \$30,000 a year and executives making \$30 million a year. There would be no reason to consider the contributions of the \$30 million folks as deserving of special treatment.

But, you say, the rich pay taxes! Indeed, they do. And they could – and should, from the point of view of the 99.9 percent – be paying substantially more in taxes, not offered even more tax breaks, despite the alleged budget crisis, because of the wonderful things they supposedly do. Still, don't some of the very rich get that way by producing innovations that are worth far

more to the world than the income they receive? Sure, but if you look at who really makes up the 0.1 percent, it's hard to avoid the conclusion that, by and large, the members of the super-elite are overpaid, not underpaid, for what they do.

For who are the 0.1 percent? Very few of them are Steve Jobs-type innovators; most of them are corporate bigwigs and financial wheeler-dealers. One recent analysis found that 43 percent of the super-elite are executives at nonfinancial companies, 18 percent are in finance and another 12 percent are lawyers or in real estate. And these are not, to put it mildly, professions in which there is a clear relationship between someone's income and his economic contribution.

Executive pay, which has skyrocketed over the past generation, is set by boards of directors appointed by the very people whose pay they determine; poorly performing CEOs still get lavish paychecks, and even failed and fired executives often receive millions as they go out the door.

Meanwhile, the economic crisis showed that much of the apparent value created by modern finance was a mirage. As the Bank of England's director for financial stability recently put it, seemingly high returns before the crisis simply reflected increased risk-taking – risk that was mostly borne not by the wheeler-dealers themselves but either by naive investors or by taxpayers, who ended up holding the bag when it all went wrong. And as he wistfully noted, "If risk-making were a value-adding activity, Russian roulette players would contribute disproportionately to global welfare."

So should the 99.9 percent hate the 0.1 percent? No, not at all. But they should ignore all the propaganda about "job creators" and demand that the super-elite pay substantially more in taxes. □

Gifts for the coffee table:

Books to behold, maybe even read



Cameron Crowe, left and Eddie Vedder of Pearl Jam in the book "Pearl Jam Twenty," in an undated handout photo. "Pearl Jam Twenty," a companion to Crowe's recent documentary about the band, is one of a group of coffee-table books recommended for a holiday gift by Dwight Garner, a book critic for The New York Times.

(Cameron Crowe via The New York Times)

DWIGHT GARNER

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This year's best gift book, for a crazy person you really, really like – as opposed to those people for whom you simply need to purchase a safe, distinguished, booklike object – is almost certainly this one: "WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?: THE ESSENTIAL DAVID SHRIGLEY" (Norton, \$35). It's a funny, sick, morally stimulating mind-bender, the best bathroom book of the new decade.

Shrigley is a British cartoonist, photographer and sculptor whose work appears regularly in The Guardian newspaper; it is also in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art and the Tate in London. His stuff blends the childlike crudity of outsider art with a literate and sinister wit, and is hard to synthesize in a few sentences. The novelist Will Self, in his introduction to this book, gets close. He suggests about Shrigley: "His vision emerges from behind a palisade of pen-strokes, advances on tiptoe towards whimsy, then beats it insensible with a lump of wood."

The book's title comes from one of Shrigley's sloppily drawn cartoons. In it a startled cow looks back at

the woman who is milking it and asks, as surely cows would if they could, "What the hell are you doing?"

Cartoons like these are mixed with photographs of things like headless taxidermied animals holding their own faces, a skull carved from a potato and a jumbo-size plastic bucket hand-lettered with the word "antidepressants." Whatever kind of runaway talent Shrigley is, I concur with Self, who declares: "You can call this art if you like – but don't expect me to like you." The appeal of Lindsay McCrum's handsome new book of photographs, "CHICKS WITH GUNS" (Vendome, \$45), would appear to be self-evident, but perhaps some will need convincing. McCrum, a former landscape painter, crisscrossed the United States, photographing female gun owners. The results are here, in painterly images that neither glorify nor vilify their subjects.

Some of the photos, of well-heeled and finely cheekboned women holding shotguns, hunting rifles, pistols and other weapons, look as if they might have first appeared in Town & Country or Garden & Gun. Others depict young women with tattoos and defi-



C-3PO, left, and R2-D2, from "Star Wars," the film series that is the subject of the book "Star Wars: The Blueprints," in an undated handout photo. "Star Wars: The Blueprints" by J.W. Rinzler is one of a group of coffee-table books recommended for a holiday gift by Dwight Garner, a book critic for The New York Times.

(Lucasfilm via The New York Times)

ant stares. A few verge on cheesecake.

The book's text, culled from interviews with each subject, is often worth attending to. One young woman deposes about her Remington 20-gauge: "There are more luxurious shotguns out there, but the manual pump action has always made me feel like Linda Hamilton in 'Terminator 2.'" Small but lovely is an updated version of Michael

Pollan's slim book "FOOD RULES: AN EATER'S MANUAL" (Penguin Press, \$23.95), this time with art by the sublime Maira Kalman. Pollan's new introduction mentions a few un-PC food rules, forwarded to him by readers, that definitely did not make the cut for this expanded edition. These include: "Eat Pringles only with diet soda"; "The French fries you pick off someone's else's plate carry no calories"; and "White bread is only good for picking up glass or cleaning typewriter keys." Beautiful in a similar way is Deborah Needleman's "PERFECTLY IMPERFECT HOME: HOW TO DECORATE & LIVE WELL" (Clarkson Potter, \$30), with Kalman-like illustrations by Virginia Johnson. Needleman, the editor in chief of WSJ Mag-

than the major ones? Surely there's someone in your life who'd be tickled that you thought of him or her when you caught sight of "THE PRACTICAL PYROMANIAC: BUILD FIRE TORNADOES, ONE-CANDLE-POWER ENGINES, GREAT BALLS OF FIRE, AND MORE INCENDIARY DEVICES," by William Gurstelle (Chicago Review Press, \$16.95). I've been an admirer of Gurstelle's books for years: his "Backyard Ballistics" is a DIY classic. There's some Hunter S. Thompson in Gurstelle. But be assured that he takes safety seriously, and you are unlikely to be sued later for wrapping this up and putting it under your favorite pyromaniac's Christmas tree. The most moving photograph I have seen in many months

appears on Page 38 of ``A HISTORY OF THE WORLD IN 100 OBJECTS`` (Viking, \$45), by Neil MacGregor, in conjunction with the British Museum and BBC Radio 4. This is a beautiful and absorbing book, a visual history of humanity, and on Page 38 you will find a photo of the Ain Sakhri lovers figurine, a stone sculpture that dates from 9000 B.C. and was found at Wadi Khareitoun, Judea, near Bethlehem. □